

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
WEDNESDAY, July 13th, 2022
LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicole Ford Burley (Vice Chair and City Historian) Jeremy Rutter (Planning Board Rep.), Noel Figart, Devin Wilkie (City Council Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep), Matt Smith

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 8th, 2022

*Ms. Ford Burley MOVED to approve the June 8th, 2022 minutes.
Seconded by Mr. Rutter.*

Amendments:

Page 2, Line 24 Change "They" to "The Commission"

Page 2, Line 25 Change "Commission" to "members"

Page 2, Line 41 Change "historical society" to "Historical Society"

Page 2, Line 41 Change "present" to "active"

Page 3, Line 3 Change "They did not have any information available currently." To "The staff was not provided any information."

Page 3, Line 18 Change "they" to "the Commission"

****The MOTION was approved (4-0)***

3. PUBLIC REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. SPECIAL PROJECTS-

Historic Districts- Ms. Owens reported that she had been notified by the NH Division of Historical Resources that Lebanon did obtain the grant that was applied for. The projects included phase 2 of the Colburn Park historic district, foundry expansion, and district requirements, updates, and signage. The grant was around \$8,200.00.

Landmark Designation- Ms. Owens explained that the Peck Homestead had local landmark designation. A tenant would like to renovate the interior and exterior of the property and make significant changes. Ms. Owens asked the Commission how much they wanted to get into it and if they had any thoughts on the renovations? Ms. Owens explained the historical significance of the property.

Oral History-None

Agenda was taken out of order.

C. EDUCATION-Ms. Owens emailed the Commission members about a webinar that would be taking place on July 21st titled, Introduction to Historical Preservation.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Review of Signage Goals (rail trail, historic districts)**-Ms. Owens said that with the CLG Grant she was hoping there would be some signage around Colburn Park for the historic district. She asked the Commission what their priorities were for signage? Vice Chair Ford Burley said she thought the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail would be a good starting place. A second phase for signage may be points of interest and historic landmarks.
- B. Soldier's Memorial**-Ms. Owens sent an assessment to the Commission about the Soldier's Memorial. Mr. Rutter was concerned that there was no mention of ongoing maintenance of the statues. Discussion was had among the members on how the statues would be maintained going forward after the pending restoration project was done. It was suggested that the Heritage Commission tour the Soldier's Memorial Building so that they could get to know the property better.
- C. Strategic Plan for the City**-The strategic plan is being updated every year. Ms. Owens said that the City Manager was on a timeline to get input from the Commission. She suggested to the Commission that they think of comments that they might like to make for the strategic plan.

4B. DANA HOUSE-Review Preliminary Reuse Input from Public, Relevant Exemplar Facilities, and Site Plantings-Ms. Owens reported that she was contacted by someone who lives in Windsor, VT and worked at St. Gaudens. He said he was publishing a book soon and had some information about the Dana House. He was calling to tell her about his findings and was willing to give a presentation to the Heritage Commission. Ms. Owens wanted to know if the Commission would like to hear more about the information. It was indicated that they were interested in hearing more from the gentleman.

Ms. Owens said that the Valley News did an article about the Dana House. The article was generally good, but the headline was misleading. Questions were asked wondering what efforts have been made in the past to define the Dana House usage and what should be done with the property. Discussion was had on different ideas that have been thought of in the past for the Dana House usage.

Ms. Owens said that there were 8 responses to the survey that was put out on the Dana House. She said overall everyone indicated support for the property to be used and preserved. Ms. Owens went over all the responses with the Commission. Mr. Wilkie said he would like to hear from current taxpayers about the Dana House.

The Commission members discussed what was to be done with the gardens at the Dana House. They agreed that they did not think that the gardens needed to be put back yet since they were not sure what was going to be done at the property in the future.

Ms. Owens said that Rich Adams, Facilities Manager went through the Dana House and noted that there were some moisture issues in the basement and that plumbing and dehumidifiers in the summer months

would help. He also said there was a slight space between the new concrete and the old concrete where there was rain runoff and mold was growing on the insulation. He also said the entrance ramp was degraded and wobbly. He went on to talk about the clapboard nails on the annex pulling away from the building and that both buildings needed to be painted and cedar shingles need to be replaced. He also said that the driveway needed some hardpack, a tree needed to be cut down, and fill needed to be brought onto the property.

The Commission continued to discuss what could be done with the Dana House including possibly moving it to another site. Ms. Owens said a structural support assessment needed to be done on the building at some point.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. DPW PROJECTS- DPW Projects/GAR Follow-Up**
- B. Oral History**
- C. Dana House-Debrief of the July 20th meeting**

8. ADJOURNMENT:

***Ms. Ford Burley MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.
Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.***

**** The MOTION was unanimously approved (4-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Higgins