

FINAL

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Remote Via Microsoft Teams

[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/Live)

July 14, 2022

6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Riley (Chair) (remote), Bruce James (Vice Chair), Ernst Oidtmann, Barbara Hirai (Alt.), Susan Almy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donald Lacey, Chris Johnson, Darla Bruno (Alt.), Erling Heistad

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

ALSO: Councilor Devin Wilkie (Alt. City Council rep) (remote)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair James called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Vice Chair James asked Ms. Hirai to sit for Don Lacey.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 9, 2022; June 9, 2022 – Non-Public; June 28, 2022 – Site Walk

Mr. Oidtmann MOVED to approve the June 9, 2022 minutes, June 9, 2022 – Non-Public; and June 28, 2022 – Site Walk, as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Almy.

June 9, 2022 minutes:

Page 3, Line 20: Add: “The Commission discussed that there was recently a fire on this parcel and there should be signage noting “No Fires” on the property.”

Page 2, Line 8: Remove the word “and”

June 28, 2022 minutes:

Amend to include members of the public present.

June 9, 2022 Non-Public minutes:

Add “be” between “to” and “funded.”

** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0-0).*

3. PERMIT REVIEW

A. None

4. STUDY ITEMS

A. Review and Discussion of the Eagle Ridge Open Space configuration

Barry Schuster, representing Whit Kelley owner, addressed the Commission. The Kelleys own Lot 7C in the Eagle Ridge subdivision. A small cluster subdivision was created with a certain amount of area of open space preserved (10 acres). In 2011/12 the Kelleys annexed seven acres nearby to their property. The open space pathway now runs through the middle of the Kelleys property. The Kelleys are suggesting moving the pathway to the perimeter of their parcel and would like input from the Commission.

In response to a question from Ms. Hirai, Mr. Schuster stated that the side pathway is an easement for the cluster subdivision to walk through the properties. It is not open to the public.

It was noted that this will not lead to an additional cluster subdivision. Nothing else can be built in this area.

Chair Riley stated that, without knowing the open space requirements of the time, this area is not particularly valuable from a conservation standpoint. She would like to know if any of the area is ecologically sensitive.

Ms. Hirai stated that she is concerned with precedent. Making an exception here may open up the possibility to other properties that may want to change. Mr. Schuster stated that precedence would be a City Council or Planning Board issue. The question to the Commission is where a path would be most desired. Ms. Hirai stated that there could be value in hedge rows on this property.

Mr. Oidtmann recommended that the three landowners discuss this item themselves to determine a good course of action. Mr. Goodwin noted that the Commission is really only discussing the layout and shape of the proposal; all other items are for the City Council.

Chair Riley stated that there could be a better orientation for this than currently proposed. The landowners may need to look further into this, in terms of land preservation of unique areas.

Ms. Almy MOVED that, in discussing the Eagle Ridge Trail open space orientation, the issue is one primarily between the three landowners of this cluster subdivision within Eagle Ridge and there is no real ecological advantage that the Commission can see that affects its interests. Seconded by Mr. Oidtmann.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0-0).***

B. Farnum Hill Preserve – Rogue Trail

This deals with a trail that reaches the Aspinwall Ridge Trail. The Commission recently walked the land and collected their ideas. The question is if the trail will become an official trail to be maintained as such.

Mr. Oidtmann stated that he would recommend leaving this as a rogue trail and discontinuing a shortcut off the trail.

Ms. Almy stated that she agrees with Mr. Oidtmann regarding the shortcut trail. She believes the Rogue Trail is being maintained well enough by the neighbors and could be recognized in some way.

Ms. Hirai stated that she enjoys the small loop of this trail. She would like to see the trail maintained and signage for it.

Chair Riley stated that she agrees that this makes a good loop, and that the shortcut trail should be clarified. There are quite a few trails on this property that need signage.

Lynn Goodwin, abutter to Farnum Hill Preserve, suggested that the trail be named after Jim Banker who originally sold this land to the City. She suggested that the trail become an official trail with true signage. The neighbors do a good job at maintaining the trail currently.

Mr. Goodwin read an email from an additional abutter, Rebecca Desilets, 3 Hetzel Way, stating that she would like to see the trail made official.

Mr. Wilkie agreed that this should be added as an official trail.

Mr. Goodwin noted that the Ranger has stated that inclusion of this trail would not overly increase the amount of trail maintenance.

Ms. Riley suggested a naming contest for this trail. Mr. Goodwin suggested the Commission hear input from other landowners in the area as to the name.

Mr. Oidtmann MOVED to recommend approval of the trail that currently exists between Slayton Hill Trail and Aspinwall Ridge Trail under the condition that the left side fork at the end of the trail be discontinued, with a name for the trail to be determined.

Seconded by Ms. Hirai.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call Sarah Riley – aye; Bruce James – aye; Ernst Oidtmann – aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Susan Almy – aye; Devin Wilkie – aye; (6-0-0).***

C. Master Plan Update – Actions & Strategies Status – Continued

The Commission reviewed the completed items on the list.

The Commission discussed sending direct invitations for Commission events, such as Wild About Lebanon, to other boards/commission and/or relevant staff.

The Commission reviewed the ongoing items on the list.

The Commission discussed its relationship in reviewing items with the Planning Board.

It was noted that Commissioners can continue to edit items and send suggested amendments to Mr. Goodwin.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Reports from other committees:

--Conservation Lands Monitors (Various Members)

Mr. Goodwin stated that the new Ranger is working on new signage using engraving.

Mr. James stated that there may be volunteer groups that work for 2-3 days at Ticknor later this summer.

Chair Riley stated that camping was occurring on the Goodwin property with campfires. She noted that a resident would like to place a memorial bench on the Goodwin property. She will walk the property and discuss possibilities in the future.

Ms. Hirai stated that all of the elms are weeded at Two Rivers Conservation area. At the East Wilder Conservation area, a letter will be sent to neighbors in hopes of having a workday and better relationship moving forward.

--Lebanon Biodiversity Group (D. Lacey)

Nothing new to report at this time.

--Workshops & Educational Opportunities (Various Members)

Ms. Hirai stated that a Wild About Lebanon event occurred on June 17, 2022, at Indian Ridge led by Ron Bailey. Also, on July 12, 2022, Mr. Oidtmann and Ms. Hirai led a kayak tour on the Connecticut River.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Riley stated that there will be a public hearing on the 21st regarding the City's Airport Environmental Assessment. This does not seem to be an insignificant impact. Also, the Pike project being completed on 12A has a deadline of August 22nd to provide more information to DES. A workday will be led by herself and Ms. Hirai on September 10, 2022, to interact with local abutters at the East Wilder Conservation area and discuss stewardship.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. City of Lebanon Draft Strategic Plan

B. Continued Review of Chapter 52 – Conservation Land Regulations

C. Continued Review of the Con Com's Rules & Procedure

Mr. Oidtmann asked that the Rules & Procedures be discussed further at a future meeting to close out this item.

8. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude
Recording Secretary