

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
WEDNESDAY, September 14th, 2022
LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:00 pm**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep)

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: August 10, 2022

*Mr. Rutter MOVED to approve the August 10th, 2022 minutes.
Seconded by Vice Chair Ford Burley.*

**The MOTION was approved (5-0)*

3. PUBLIC REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. SPECIAL PROJECTS-

Mall Kiosk-Vice Chair Ford Burley has materials regarding the history of the Lebanon Woolen Mills that she will share with staff and also ask the project owner for detail regarding, specifically to request information compiled by the consultant Scott Newman. She will work with staff on content for a new kiosk display, and Ms. Figart committed to crafting a template for the display design.

Historic Districts-The DHR shared a contract for staff to review to initiate the CLG Phase 2 project for updating the Colburn Park Historic District.

Landmark Designation-

Mr. Rutter conveyed that he has toured a good part of the City to evaluate which of the properties on the historic landmarks list have visibly displayed plaques. He found that of the 60 visited to date (there are over 80 sites total), only 35 had visible plaques (including AVA), and 15 definitely do not have anything displayed. There was surmising that public places, at minimum, should be asked to show the plaques visibility or have a kiosk.

Members pondered if Mr. Rutter's findings regarding a low rate of display of the landmark plaques has anything to do with a lack of specific guidance on plaque placement and/or assistance in affixing the plaques. They also questioned what happens to a property's listing (and plaque) if the designated structure is destroyed, such as the Westboro buildings. Does it lose its status? And if there is no structure, such as at the Densmore Brickyard, was a plaque awarded and where is it placed, if at all? Cole Park was also noted as an example of a place lacking a building, though an existing kiosk there could be utilized.

Ms. Owens stated that she can investigate if other communities have useful wording about similar programs that could help Lebanon to refine its program text. She can also look into how many plaques have been ordered overall, as it is possible that some of the properties were not provided with them in the early years.

Noel Figart *MOVED to "Create a landmark emeritus designation for City of Lebanon designated landmarks that are no longer in existence due to natural or human causes."* Seconded by Mr. Smith.

***The MOTION was approved (5-0)**

Oral History-Ms. Owens confirmed that members wish to learn about JAM (CATV) local cable service opportunities for collaboration in interviewing locals on historical perspectives.

B. DANA HOUSE-Ms. Owens reviewed the City's lease of the property from SAU88, including terms of required maintenance and use for educational programming.

She mentioned that a resident of Connecticut, Carole Enright, requested and received a visit to the Dana House with Staff, following genealogical discovery of family ties to Joseph Dana; Ms. Enright commented that she may have ideas regarding fundraising for and reuse of the Dana House and would like to stay in touch. Ms. Owens observed a large number of boxes of the late Mr. Leavitt's notes that could be digitized.

A LebTimes summary of the Dana House's current status was published in August.

A resident contacted Vice Chair Burley with the idea to use the Dana House as a contract space for instructors to run courses, e.g., from OSHER, Billings, and AVA, in ways that tie to local history and that could be a source of some revenue to at least support ongoing maintenance costs. Some free slots could be offered to address the equity issue. Vice Chair Burley commented that she will ask the NH League of Craftspeople if there is decent public activity and interest in such programming. Doing so doesn't require 'stuff' on site; staff noted that there could be some insurance coverage requirements depending on the type of instruction. The space to be used would include the annex and site vs. the original building. There is the question of how to find vendors and who/how to manage them, as well as the frequency; members agreed it could be an interim or pilot use of the ell to help activate the rest of the building. Ms. Owens mentioned there is some potential synergy with the Claremont Makerspace and Ms. Figart agreed some such organizations likely showcase traditional arts/crafts and even reenactments. Ms. Owens was asked to contact SAU88 to involve with future discussions about the Dana House reuse, per the terms of the lease, to confirm what level of involvement SAU88 wishes to maintain.

Other follow up recapped in the discussion included invitation to James Haff to speak about his findings related to the Danas and slavery, follow-up with Cori Hirai about plantings around the foundation, lead/asbestos/structural abatement, and NH Preservation Alliance funding for a business plan. A member suggested that the Dana House could be a training opportunity for hazardous material

C. EDUCATION-None

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Historic Marker and Interpretive Signage- This topic was discussed in relation to the prior discussion on historic landmark signage. Mr. Rutter asked staff if there is a list of kiosks throughout the City, starting with those on Conservation parcels, like the Mill parcel. These could be opportunities for historic signage to utilize existing City displays. Ms. Owens noted that NPS has offered technical assistance for signage at Westboro and that she still plans to apply for a grant for National Register signage. An overall City inventory of signage was discussed and Ms. Owens referenced a draft framework from her notes; members noted that the places like the Pedestrian Mall, cemeteries and dedications (e.g., the High St. pocket park) could be added. The effort could be collaborative, including support from partners like the UV Business Alliance.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. DPW projects/GAR follow-up- Members debriefed on their Sept. 12th tour of the Soldier's Memorial Home (GAR). They noted that there were a lot of artifacts and that the collection is selectively augmented at the discretion of the assigned guardian, Bob Therrien; items covered the Upper Valley, not just Lebanon, and also all veterans, not only the Civil War. Members wondered if there is a plan for continuity or succession of the GAR's guardianship, or a recent report on the facility's activities and if a similar guardianship (vs. the Heritage Commission) is a model for the Dana House.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

***Vice Chair. Ford Burley MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM.
Seconded by Mr. Rutter.***

**** The MOTION was unanimously approved (5-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Owens