

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2022**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Noel Figart, Devin Wilkie (City Council Rep.), 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 6:06 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. October 12, 2022

Amendments:

1. Page 2, line 30 - “when intact items are surfaced” to be changed to “when intact items are exposed”
2. Page 2, line 36 – edit “1904’s” to “1940’s”
3. Page 2, line 37 - “more of a curiosity than *a* functional feature and could not be used because they do not own it all. Follow-up needs for the signage effort include adding landmark properties to the map, adding kiosks to the map, looking for other community examples, and incorporating Lebanon postcard and gallery photos *into* the map.”

Mr. Rutter MOVED to approve the October 12th, 2022 minutes as amended.

Seconded by Vice Chair Ford Burley.

****The MOTION was approved (3-0)***

B. November 9, 2022

Amendments:

1. Page 1, line 14 - “Including increasing the *paved*” area.
2. Page 2, line 48 - “estimate from JAM soon and *to* produce a product in time”
3. Page 2, line 72 - “City Council”

Matt Smith moved to approve the November 9, 2022 minutes as amended

Seconded by Mr. Rutter.

****The MOTION was approved (3-0)***

3. PUBLIC REVIEW:

The Lebanon Opera House building may submit an application for the next review regarding the proposed ramp project. This information is to be confirmed.

Mr. Rutter mentioned that since the last meeting, the Brickyard project came to the Planning Board for conceptual review. There are 435 apartments and a lot of concerns in addition to the previously mentioned traffic flow. At the review, the idea of incorporating the kilns into the design, near the clubhouse, was discussed. Discussion was also had regarding the effect on school traffic specifically.

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. Special Projects

• Historic Districts

Ms. Owens has nearly finished the required paperwork for the contract with the State. Since the project is not due until September 2024, there will be plenty of time to work through it. This contract will pull in CAMP (professional mentor) training by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) and includes a requirement for NAPC membership; the State would sponsor the trainings. This would also open up a wide variety of webinars to members. This contract includes a phase two that will update the Colburn Park Historic District through finalization of the submission to update the National Register District.

Ms. Owens reflected on documentation from earlier this year and notes that there are lots of options for future districts. There are at least three new local Historic District zoning overlays for West Lebanon. There are currently discussions for big changes with the West Lebanon traffic flow, as well as some restructuring (also being referred to as changes in the “Streetscape”). This plan is intended to prime the area for revitalization. The project discussion is at the budget stage currently.

▪ Walking Tour/Online Map options

The 10th suggested location at Storrs Hill needs to be reformatted; this should be done promptly in order to meet the 100th anniversary timeframe for its designation.

▪ Kiosk

Mr. Smith was unable to comment on the kiosk (in front of Salt Hill Pub) work since the last meeting. However, he was pleased with information/media received from Vice Chair Nicole Ford Burley and will look to use that in the kiosk. He will look to include adding google maps in a refined way.

Ms. Owens reported that each kiosk includes 6 sections: program background for the historic landmark designations, map, landmarks list, 2 sections dedicated to in-focus landmark examples from throughout the community (including photo and description), and a fact or fiction section (like FAQ). In addition, there will be a section for *learning more* - how to contact the Heritage Commission, read the full story, how to get involved, etc.

▪ Landmark Designation

Lebanon historic landmark designations and the local, Lebanon Historic District can be found on the Lebanon GIS website, but supporting details are missing. Additional categories for potential mapping through a reference separate from GIS are the National Register District, State Register of Historic Places, fountains, monuments, sculptures, interpretive and similar notable signage, and general interest categories like mills and the Mall Tunnel. The idea of incorporating these locations into google maps using a spreadsheet was brought up. It was suggested that address, company name (if applicable), description, designation type, and comments or links be included. Even a photo could be added later to each location where reasonable. An inventory of existing public signs would be a great starting point. The long-term maintenance of the list would need to be established and a responsible party identified.

• Oral History

▪ JAM project - Lebanon's Native and Indigenous Past

Plans to start working on the contract for the fifteen-minute video diving into indigenous history and addressing the current status, acknowledging Lebanon's newly adopted land acknowledgement are under way. JAM will collaborate with the Heritage Commission, NH smaller organizations (tribes), as well as DEI Commission. Once this video is completed, it is to be posted to the city website.

B. Dana House

Department of Public Works has extra budgeting available (no specific details yet) to work on some exterior needs: potentially some painting as the wood siding is chipping; moisture issues are also affecting the basement. DPW has agreed to collaborate to determine structural needs, repave the driveway, and make provision for proper drainage.

Ms. Owens has located hand-drawn floor plans of the Dana House. While some updates have occurred, these plans remain mostly accurate and could be used in combination with the history of past uses of and stories about the house. Ms. Owens to reach out to the newly hired school representative.

C. Education • CLG workshops

Two trainings have been funded for Lebanon through the National Alliance of Preservation Commission: base/core training along with a custom training. There are two options for the core training. The in-person option creates the potential for networking with other local communities and takes place over several days, but incurs a higher cost, while the virtual option would allow for higher local attendance, takes place all in one day, and does not allow for networking opportunities, but would be associated with a lower cost.

NAPC is currently updating their menu of options and expects the first training to take place in March of 2023. These trainings would not be limited to members of the Heritage Commission, but rather would be open to any city official.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Historic Marker and Interpretive Signage

Mr. Rutter mentioned his admiration for the Bridge Street Park signs, for both the locations and content of these temporary signs. He suggested adding a “you are here” identifier and expanding the size of the map to show the entire area being illustrated in the photos. It was asked if a magnifying glass or arrow could be used to tie the image to the map/location and provide a better sense of direction.

Similar signage will also be placed in the Greenway through Westboro Rail Yard and potentially up through River Park and Wilder Dam at some date in the future.

Involvement by the National Parks Service will be investigated. It is requested that the Heritage Commission be involved in the identification of persons to assist with signage and contribute to its content to promote historic preservation. Language/text should be accessible to allow for updates to circumvent any future changes to pathways or information, allowing for signage to “stand the test of time” such as a plexiglass top. A QR code is also suggested, allowing visitors to learn more beyond what the signage includes. It may also be wise to identify the railway bridge on the map to orient visitors.

There is also talk of expanding the rail trail to meet with the Greenway Trail. However, at this time, the stone arch bridge is an obstacle as its remains are considered an active railway.

B. DPW projects/GAR next steps

Ms. Owens states that the Public Works Soldiers Memorial Building Moose Plate grant was received in the amount of \$23,000 to complete repairs to the statues.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one came forth

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. NHDHR Request for Project Review - Lebanon Rest Area follow-up

Ms. Owens spoke to the NH Division of Historical Resources and the NH Department of Transportation. The State has proposed the removal of a building at the rest area on I-89 to install a CDL testing site. Although the building remains structurally sound and electrical items are in the process of being removed, the State does not wish to perform any additional maintenance of the building and will be looking to demolish it if an initiative to relocate it does not occur. A decision is requested by the state within two weeks and the building would need to be moved by March 2023 to prevent demolition. The rest area is National Register eligible, but it is undetermined if the building is original to the site or if it was placed there at a later date. Ms. Ford Burley underscored the significance of the rest area site as it was built in 1969 and was the very first rest area on Interstate 89. Ms. Ford Burley is interested in a site visit, if only to inspect and document the structure prior to its demolition.

B. Conservation Commission Coordination

Would Heritage Commission be interested in co-hosting a lecture regarding the history of East Wilder, north of the dam?

C. Update to History of Lebanon webpage

D. Historical Society coordination

E. February is to be a West Lebanon-focused meeting

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chair Nicole Ford Burley MOVED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Kenniston, City Clerk**