

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
LEBANON I89 EXIT 18 REST AREA – WEIGH STATION
SITE WALK**

1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep), Noel Figart, Devin Wilkie (Council Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens

1. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Participants conducted introductions: members of the Commission present, other members of the public including Conservation Commission Chair Sarah Riley, and NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) representatives including Chris Turgeon (District 2), Mike Servetas, and Jeff Oberdank.

2. STUDY ITEMS

A. Proposed Weigh Station Demolition and Site Modifications for CDL Testing by NHDOT

Participants convened on the interior of the weigh station building located at the I89 Exit 18 rest area. NHDOT plans to remove the building if no one from Lebanon has interest and funding to relocate it. The purpose of the removal is to meet updated commercial driver licensing (CDL) standards for test areas, and the site is currently used for CDL testing. No additional testing is anticipated beyond the current rate of approximately 7-10 tests per month, but additional paved space is required. NHDOT reviewed alternative sites and could not find one that was financially feasible.

In addition to demolition of the weigh station, the project would remove part of the northern section of the rest area's curb and vegetation, involve some rock blasting, and increase impervious area for vehicle movements. The weigh station is structurally sound, includes functional electricity, plumbing, and finishes, and has no known asbestos or lead, but has not been used or needed as a scale house for many years. The building was likely constructed in the 1960s at the time of the construction of the other buildings on-site. The other buildings and the entire rest area, including the other buildings and potentially the weigh station as a contributing element, are eligible for National Register nomination, which is why NHDOT and the NH Division of Historical Resources brought the project to the attention of the Commission.

Participants also walked around the weigh station building and proposed project area. Ms. Riley expressed concern about the removal of part of the forest and rock outcrop buffer, approximately half of the eastern 'bulb' of the vegetated area (situated between the welcome center and the weigh station), as it relates to the potential impacts on the adjacent neighborhood and loss of shaded refuge for travelers. NHDOT representatives responded that the buffer was sometimes used for illegal dumping and other illicit activities and that removal of some of the tallest pine trees was necessary as they would not remain viable after completion of the envisaged project.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Heritage Commission, Wednesday, January 11, 2023

The site walk adjourned at 1:35pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Owens, Associate Planner**