

FINAL

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Remote Via Microsoft Teams

LebanonNH.gov/Live

January 12, 2023

6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Riley (Chair), Bruce James (Vice Chair), Ernst Oidtmann, Donald Lacey, Chris Johnson, Barbara Hirai (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erling Heistad, Susan Almy, Sean Dittrich (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Hirai sat for Ms. Almy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 8, 2022

***Mr. Oidtmann MOVED to approve the December 8, 2022 minutes, as amended.
Seconded by Mr. James.***

- *Page 4, Line 18: strike “July” and strike “and it.”*
- *Page 4, Line 18: add “Center” after “Stormwater”*
- *Page 6, Line 1: change “include” to “include discussion of the problem of”*
- *Page 5, Line 5 change “provisor” to “proviso”*

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (6-0-0).***

3. Election of Officers

Mr. Lacey MOVED to nominate Sarah Riley as Chair of the Lebanon Conservation Commission.

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; Donald Lacey – aye; and Chris Johnson – aye; (6-0-0).***

Chair Riley MOVED to nominate Bruce James as Vice Chair of the Lebanon Conservation Commission.

Seconded by Mr. Oidtmann.

*** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call: Sarah Riley – aye; Bruce James – aye; Ernst Oidtmann – aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Donald Lacey – aye; and Chris Johnson – aye; (6-0-0).**

4. PERMIT REVIEW

None.

5. STUDY ITEMS

A. Goodwin Conservation Property Bridge Project Update

The Commission discussed what type of bridge it would like to see in this area. Mr. Goodwin noted that a Contech engineering bridge for this area would cost approximately \$75,000, with installation estimated at approximately \$100,000. A second option, the Hanover Mink Brook design, will likely have a lower cost and include minimum site disturbance. Chair Riley stated that she believes the City needs to consider the sustainability and environmental cost of whatever option is chosen. The group discussed if it should use LOST funds towards this project.

Mr. Johnson stated that, if the bridge is slated to last for 30-50 years, there will be time to work out any issues with the parking area and fixing trails within the area. These issues should not halt the Commission moving forward with the project. It is ideal to use LOST funds to acquire new properties, but the Commission should also consider using them to keep existing properties up to date.

Chair Riley stated that she has concerns with the cost of the Contech bridge, along with a concern that this would require further widening of the road from Meriden Road.

A vote was taken whether or not to use the LOST Fund to financially support an estimated \$100,000 expenditure to cover the cost of the bridge project, covering that portion not covered by the current grants awarded. The vote was Lacey, Oidtmann, James, and Johnson, in favor; Hirai and Riley, against. Chair Riley stated that she believes other properties are more in need of labor and funds. She stated that she feels this proposed bridge is an ultimatum that she is not ready to move forward with. Mr. Lacey stated that he believes the Commission should use some of the \$1.4M it has to purchase this bridge. It would then still have plenty of funding to undertake projects at other properties. Ms. Hirai stated that the Commission should look for other ways to use these funds.

B. Master Plan Chapter Update (continued)

Mr. James asked what the Planning Department is looking for. Chair Riley stated that she would like the Commission to present a document it can stand behind. She stated that she does not believe the submission will be overly edited by the Planning Board. Mr. James stated that he is trying to make sure this document does not go too far into the weeds.

Chair Riley suggested wording for an updated air quality and air pollution section, with specific information for Lebanon. She also suggested additional language that the City should consider adopting a blasting ordinance, with the ability to consult a hydrogeologist, as needed. Chair Riley suggested additional language regarding urban forests, as drafted by the Tree Board.

C. Discussion re: Potential disposition of City-owned parcels for housing (continued)

The Commission discussed criteria for disposition of City-owned parcels. The Commission reviewed Lot 82-11 as a potential open space lot. This property contains soils of State importance. The Commission discussed Lot 106-49. Chair Riley suggested that this lot be considered for a pocket park, as it is located along the Mascoma River. The Commission reviewed Lot 109-39. This lot creates scenic value for the rail trail.

Mr. Lacey MOVED to extend the meeting for 30 minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Hirai.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (6-0-0).***

The Commission discussed Lots 131-7 and 14-23, as lots to remain as open space. The Commission discussed Lot 26-27. The overall decision of the Commission was to keep this lot at this time. The Commission discussed Lot 77-107. This lot may help mitigate light and noise from nearby Route 89. The Commission discussed Lot 64-1. The Commission agreed to recommend the City not retain 11 of the properties on the list.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Conservation Committee Reports:

Mr. Lacey reported from the Biodiversity Committee regarding Baker's Crossing.

Chair Riley stated that, regarding a Conservation Land Stewardship report, she would like to hear from the Ranger and/or Trail Steward Coordinator. Mr. James stated that a lot of trail work is needed, likely in the spring. He has visited Boston Lot/Landmark Land, Ticknor, Signal Hill, and some other areas.

Chair Riley stated that she would like to hear a trail monitor/steward report. Ms. Hirai reviewed some of the trail work recently completed by stewards. She stated that the Two Rivers area needs quite a bit of work.

Chair Riley stated that there was a Wild About Lebanon program on December 10th on the Landmark Land, led by Ron Bailey.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Riley stated that she would like for the Commission to review its annual goals. She would also like to review the Ticknor property on a future agenda. There will be a wetland training webinar series, starting on January 27th. She suggested that Commissioners attend these trainings.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

9. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude
Recording Secretary