FINAL

CONSERVTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers, City Hall OR
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
March 9, 2023
6:30 PM

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: **Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)**

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

Ms. Hirai sat for Ms. Almy.
Mr. Lacey stated that he was unable to attend the meeting in person due to a medical reason.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 9, 2023

Mr. Heistad MOVED to approve the February 9, 2023 minutes, as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Oidtmann.

****** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call: Sarah Riley – aye; Bruce James – aye; Ernst Oidtmann – aye; Chris Johnson – aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Erling Heistad – aye; and Donald Lacey - aye (7-0-0).***

3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None.

4. PERMIT REVIEW
None.

5. STUDY ITEMS
A. Master Plan Chapter Update (revised Chapter 5)

Ms. Hirai stated that she worked through the document to create consistency throughout the document. The actions are now organized by topic.

Mr. Goodwin explained that a few points were added to the key items and the chapter text itself was amended to flow better grammatically. Next steps include putting this into a more professional format. The Planning Board will review the document later this month and vote whether to adopt it. The Commission informed the priority of these items back in January. The City Manager's Strategic Plan will contain action items for the year, and he will bring the Commission's priority items to the table during discussions for the Strategic Plan. This does not preclude the Commission from working on other items in parallel.

Mr. Oidtmann stated that, regarding light pollution at night, the Commission should push businesses to install motion sensor lights for wildlife. Chair Riley noted that specific solutions were not mentioned in the document, but she believes this is covered in the goals.

Mr. Oidtmann suggested an additional item to build more EV charging stations for cars. Chair Riley stated that this may be more addressed in the upcoming Energy chapter of the Master Plan.

Mr. Heistad MOVED that the Commission recommend that the Planning Board adopt updated Chapter 5 of the Master Plan.
Seconded by Mr. Oidtmann.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call: Sarah Riley – aye; Bruce James – aye; Ernst Oidtmann – aye; Chris Johnson – aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Erling Heistad – aye; and Donald Lacey - aye (7-0-0).***

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)

Mr. Lacey stated that he reviewed Baker's Crossing. There is one blow down that needs to be cleaned up. He stated that he has been learning about the spotted lantern fly which is a potential threat for New Hampshire that Commissioners should learn how to identify.

Chair Riley stated that two County Foresters will be doing a workshop on invasive plant identification on May 9th at 4pm. The Foresters will also be coming out on April 5th at 9:30am to scout out locations with Commissioners for the workshop. There can be up to 30 members of the public for this workshop.

Chair Riley noted that garlic mustard season is approaching. Materials and messaging will be created for this.

B. Stewardship

- Ranger

None at this time.

- Trail Coordinator

Mr. James stated that he met with Ms. Hirai and Chair Riley to rework the trail steward list. Mr. Hirai will become the welcoming person and the effort will become more streamlined this year.

Mr. Heistad suggested a more formal signup process for those interested. Chair Riley explained that there is a form through the Commission's website.

- Monitors and Stewards

The Commission reviewed the monitor and steward reports.

C. Wild about Lebanon

Ms. Hirai stated that the most recent Wild About Lebanon event was hosted by Ron Bailey, Ranger Emeritus. 10 members of the public participated. This was a good opportunity to discuss the development occurring on the airport property.

The Commission discussed ideas for a Wild About Lebanon in March. There was a suggestion for Ms. Hirai to host a walk at Two Rivers. Mr. Oidtmann suggested a river canoe trip down part of the Mascoma River in the summer.

D. Amphibian Crossings

Chair Riley stated that the Harris Center is holding a training on this topic via Zoom on March 14th. The Lion's Club has drafted a reflective, 12x18 sign on amphibian crossings for the Commission's review. The sign also displays the Commission's name. The proposal is to mount these on utility poles. She noted that permission may be needed from the utility itself. Mr. Goodwin suggested that City Hall be consulted on these signs through the Zoning Department.

The Commission discussed the bridge on Great Brook Road.

E. LUCT/Current Use

None.

F. Other Subcommittees

Mr. Heistad stated that the Class VI Roads Committee is still working on some projects. There has been discussion regarding Ticknor Road. Ms. Hirai noted that an abutter is questioning the supposed right of way from Slayton Hill to the cellar hole.

Chair Riley noted that, on March 14th a couple of Tree Board members and highschoolers will be presenting their heat island research to the City Council. The Tree Board is also working on an Urban Tree ordinance and the tree inventory.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. FYIs

Chair Riley noted that one FYI was received from DES requesting more information about the Timken project along the Mascoma River. There was also a response from Sanborn Head to DES on this subject providing some of the information. The Commission agreed to review this documentation.

Chair Riley stated that she has been following the Pike application. Extensions have been granted from DES, with the most recent one expiring in a few months. A Request for More Information (RFI) was received as an FYI more than a year ago. Mr. Heistad asked if there is a limitation on the number of extensions that can be granted. Chair Riley stated that she would address that question to DES.

B. Follow Up

Ms. Hirai stated that she would like to see the list of goals followed up on. Chair Riley stated that this should be a future agenda item.

Mr. Johnson stated that he was hoping to find opportunities to get the Upper Valley Young Professionals involved with another project such as the clean-up at Two Rivers. Mr. Oidtmann stated that he would reach out to the Rotary Club regarding an organized river clean-up. This can be addressed as a future agenda item.

C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities

Chair Riley stated that the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Wetland series continues. This includes some tools, such as mapping tools. The next series will be on March 31st at noon. She stated that she will also send a link from the NH Coverts Program regarding a program to make land more wildlife friendly.

Ms. Hirai stated that Connecticut River Steward is holding an in person meet and greet in Lebanon at the Kilton on March 23rd at 5:30pm.

Chair Riley stated that she had a discussion with someone from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission regarding stormwater. This is a topic that Commission has been focusing on as of late. The conversation revolved around green infrastructure and how to slow down the infiltration of stormwater. She stated that she would like to approach DPW with some ideas on this topic. There are grants that could be sought for this topic.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

The Board reviewed its future agenda items, including updating Chapter 52 and its rules and procedures.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Heistad MOVED that the Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.
Seconded by Mr. Oidtmann.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call: Sarah Riley – aye; Bruce James – aye; Ernst Oidtmann – aye; Chris Johnson – aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Erling Heistad – aye; and Donald Lacey - aye (7-0-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude
Recording Secretary