



LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 11, 2023 - 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. April 13, 2023
 - 3. Open to the Public**
 - 4. Permit Review**
 - A. None
 - 5. Study Items**
 - A. 2023 Goals Review
 - 6. Committee Reports**
 - A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)
 - B. Stewardship
 - Ranger
 - Trail Coordinator
 - Monitors and Stewards
 - C. Wild about Lebanon
 - D. Amphibian Crossings
 - E. LUCT/Current Use
 - F. Other Subcommittees
 - 7. Other Business**
 - A. FYIs
 - B. Follow Up
 - C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities
 - 8. Future Agenda Items**
 - 9. Adjournment**

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public that wish to attend remotely may do so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupts virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

DRAFT

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers, City Hall OR
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
April 13, 2023
6:30 PM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Dittrich (Alt.), Susan Almy, Sarah Riley (Chair), Ernst Oidtman

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

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

2
3 *Ms. Hirai sat for Ms. Riley.*

4 *Mr. Lacey and Mr. Johnson stated that they were unable to attend the meeting in person due to*
5 *medical reasons.*

6
7 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 9, 2023**

8
9 *Ms. Hirai MOVED to approve the March 9, 2023 minutes, as presented.*

10 *Seconded by Mr. Heistad.*

11
12 ** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call: Bruce James – aye; Chris Johnson –*
13 *aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Erling Heistad – aye; and Donald Lacey - aye (5-0-0).*

14 **3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

15 None.

16 **4. PERMIT REVIEW**

17 None.

18
19 **5. STUDY ITEMS**

20 **A. Jackson Property – Property Overview & Discussion**

21
22 Mr. James explained that the Commission should review the property and discuss it broadly. The
23 property was transferred in 2010 and an easement is held by the Upper Valley Land Trust.

24
25 Mr. Goodwin stated that the former owner of the property subdivided off the existing house lot
26 and asked the City to endeavor to protect the rest of the open space. This was completed using
27 LOST funds. The approximately 16 acres were maintained by the City, including some trails. A

1 neighbor of the property has been mowing it and reimbursed by the City. The trails and property
2 boundary have been blazed. There is also an example of an existing pollinator garden on the
3 property.

4
5 Mr. Heistad stated that bear and deer are quite common in this area.

6
7 Mr. Goodwin noted that one kiosk is planned for the Jackson property along Reservoir Road. A
8 kiosk is needed for this area to educate the public that it is a City property.

9
10 Ms. Hirai asked the condition of the trail. Mr. Heistad stated that some of the trail has been
11 severely washed out due to a lack of water bars. Mr. James stated that there is interest from the
12 trail steward for the Jackson property to create some additional trails if the Commission approves
13 it. Mr. Heistad stated that he believes someone has been creating additional routes on the
14 property without permission.

15
16 Mr. Goodwin stated that the Forest Avenue trail has been eroding. Some neighbors asked about
17 shifting this trail from the gulley to a drier area. Mr. Goodwin suggested that they flag the
18 proposed trail, and this was completed. The City is also getting ready to build along Forest
19 Avenue, including some new drainage. It has been indicated that there is a trail head in this area
20 that needs to be maintained.

21
22 Mr. James noted that Ms. Riley expressed interest in promoting blueberry production. Ms. Hirai
23 noted that there is interest in forming a blueberry workshop. Mr. Lacey noted that the UNH
24 Cooperative Extension may have interest in helping with a workshop.

25
26 The Commission discussed the proposed housing development on the south side of Prospect
27 Street Extension, close to this property. This may limit usage of the Jackson property.

28
29 Mr. Heistad noted that there is a stable vernal pool on the property. He noted that it is a nicely
30 accessible property from the school for children to use.

31
32 Ms. Hirai noted that there is an 18-acre property to the north which could be acquired to add to
33 the Jackson parcel. Mr. Heistad echoed this suggestion. The Commission discussed a possible
34 grant to help with purchase of this property.

35
36 The Commission discussed a Conservation Commission walk or a Wild About Lebanon event of
37 the property. The Commission could then better survey the area. The Commission agreed to
38 continue to discuss this item in the coming months.

39 40 **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

41 **A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)**

42
43 Ms. Hirai stated that there was a meeting with people from Hanover who are doing garlic
44 mustard work. It is too early yet to know whether bagging versus piling is a better option. Garlic
45 mustard season has begun and pulling can begin.

**B. Stewardship
- Ranger**

Ms. Hirai stated that she participated in a walk at the Alana Cole property with John Plummer, Society of Protection of NH Forests, who has been helping to maintain the property. The entire boundary has been flagged and blazed. At the top of the staircase, one neighbor has cleared the property for a view and some of this is recent clearing on the Commission's property. This needs to be addressed and other properties should be monitored for similar concerns. There are also some pressure-treated wood areas of the staircase that should likely be removed.

Ms. Hirai stated that she and Ms. Riley met with a couple of the County Foresters regarding the upcoming invasives workshop. It was determined that native plants will be included in this workshop. This workshop will occur on May 9th.

Ms. Hirai stated that, on March 23rd, the Connecticut River Commission had a meet-and-greet and six member of the Commission attended. This showed the Commission's interest in this cause.

Ms. Hirai stated that she received an email regarding environmental bills, including House Bill 2, to remove licensing for foresters. This bill is dead at this time. There was also information regarding letters of support from 25 Conservation Commissions throughout the State. She stated that this is an opportunity in the future for the Commission to weigh in on legislative items.

Mr. Goodwin stated that the new Ranger should be able to start work soon.

- Trail Coordinator

- Monitors and Stewards

C. Wild about Lebanon – *This item was not discussed directly at this time.*

D. Amphibian Crossings– *This item was not discussed directly at this time.*

E. LUCT/Current Use– *This item was not discussed directly at this time.*

F. Other Subcommittees– *This item was not discussed directly at this time.*

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. FYIs

The Commission discussed the Goodwin Conservation Area bridge. Mr. Goodwin noted that this bridge will be designed by a 3rd party contractor. Information will be passed along to the contractor that the Commission would like to see a wooden bridge, if at all possible.

B. Follow Up– *This item was not discussed directly at this time.*

C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities– *This item was not discussed directly at this time.*

1 **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

2
3 **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

4
5 *Mr. Heistad MOVED that the Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm.*

6 *Seconded by Mr. Lacey.*

7
8 ** The Vote on the MOTION was approved by roll call: Bruce James – aye; Chris Johnson –*
9 *aye; Barbara Hirai – aye; Erling Heistad – aye; and Donald Lacey - aye (5-0-0).*

10 Respectfully submitted,

11 Kristan Patenaude

Recording Secretary

B. Goals for 2023 (WORKING DRAFT COPY)

The Commission engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding desired goals for the coming year, as summarized via the following outline:

Property Stewardship

- Forest Management Plans (review existing and determine gaps) and more engagement related to recommended action/activities (MP 5.4b.2) Who/When?
- Review gaps and needs for infrastructure, e.g., footbridges, etc. (MP 5.4b.2)
- Signage/Kiosks/Map resources (MP 5.4b.2) (SP 5.7.2)
- Trail Maintenance (ongoing care of existing trails) (MP 5.4b.2 & MP 5.4b.5) (SP 5.7.3)

~ Collaborate with the Nature Conservancy on the Elm Tree Restoration project (SP 5.6.1)

Education / Outreach

- Workshop for ConCom to increase awareness of aquifer/water resource status, including future plans. (MP 5.6a.7) (SP 5.8.1) Who/When?
- Increased ConCom knowledge of general topic of water resource (internal education for ConCom members) Who/When/How?
- Continued support for Wild About Lebanon (MP 5.6a.5) (SP 5.7.1)

~ Develop and disseminate public education materials regarding the importance of protecting our water supply sources (SP 5.8.1)

~ Host Amphibian Crossing Program (SP 5.9.4)

~ Host annual Mascoma River clean-up (SP 5.8.3)

Land Conservation

- Add to existing 2,000 acres, for land acquisition (MP 5.4a.1) (SP 5.6.2)
- Review and modify as needed existing regulations related to OS protection (e.g., ridgeline, aquifer, steep slopes, etc.) (MP 5.2b.2 & MP 5.5a.4)
- Increased awareness and encouragement for land protection (MP 5.6a.4) Who/When/How?
- As part of the Wetland Permit process, have mitigation projects in the hopper to offer ??

~ Work with the Upper Valley Land Trust regarding permanently protecting Baker's Crossing (SP 5.6.2)

~ Implement recommendations from the wildlife corridor plans (SP 5.9.3)

~ Examine the applicability of a vernal pool overlay district (SP 5.9.2)

~ Conduct review of existing steep slope regulations (SP 5.9.1)

Miscellaneous

- Increased communication regarding DPW maintenance activities, future well plans, stormwater initiatives (e.g., LID techniques, water quality protection, etc.) ??
- LOST Fund Investment Strategies Who/When/How?

- Collaboration / Communication between ConCom and proposed redevelopment plans for West Lebanon **Who/When/How?**

~ Evaluate Lebanon participation in the NH F&W doe harvest program (SP 5.6.3)

~ Innovative stormwater regulations existing in the Site Plan regulations to be migrated to the sub-division regulations as appropriate (SP 5.8.2)

FOOTNOTE: the “~” symbol equates to items contained within the 2023 CoL Strategic Plan. I have “merged” the ConCom Goals list to include the SP action items, so as to provide a comprehensive “snapshot” as to the various efforts proposed for the near future.