

FINAL

**LEBANON CLASS VI ROADS ADVISORY BOARD
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
6:30PM WEDNESDAY MAY 04, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen Wood (Chair), Colin Smith (Vice Chair), Erling Heistad (City Council Rep.), Barbara Hirai

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Coleman

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (City of Lebanon GIS Coordinator)

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Ms. Heidi Bundy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16, 2023

A MOTION was made by Ms. Hirai to approve the February 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heistad.

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved (4-0).***

Chair Wood explained that the Class VI Roads Advisory Board's work is entirely advisory to the City Council. He said the Board examines various roads that may be determined to be, based on evidence, possible rights of way (ROWs) and makes recommendations to the City Council.

3. STUDY ITEMS

- **Review and Discussion of Class VI Road #30 – Ticknor Road**

Mr. Goodwin said the section for discussion travels from Slayton Hill Road to the edge of the property boundary that is owned by the City. He said, in previous meetings, the Board reviewed the prescriptive information which includes several maps.

He said the task for this meeting is to continue to look at Ticknor Road in the greater context of a trail/road network or is it just a dead-end road. He said the Torbet maps that the Board has reviewed in past meetings seem to indicate it is part of a bigger road network.

The Board reviewed a version of the Torbet map that shows a section of Ticknor Road (shown on the map in blue), which travels from Slayton Hill Road to the Cellar Hole/Pest House. The Torbet map also includes two possible extensions of Ticknor Road beyond the section shown in blue, one shown in orange and one shown in purple.

Mr. Goodwin said the section shown in blue on the Torbet map has many of the characteristics of a Class VI Road and has long been recognized by residents. He said the City has spent years combing through information and found an overwhelming amount of evidence to support the assertion that this section of Ticknor Road coming from Slayton Hill Road (shown in blue on the Torbet map) is a public right of way. He said they have not found the same amount of information for any part of the road further east, north, or south beyond the blue section depicted on the Torbet map in orange and purple.

Chair Wood said there is very little evidence to support that Ticknor Road extends in the direction of what is depicted on the Torbet map as an orange line. He said there is some evidence that indicates that the portion of the road shown in purple that extends beyond the blue line on the Torbet map is the true continuation of Ticknor Road. Chair Wood said a good portion of the area near the purple line on the Torbet map is public land. He said this area will be discussed in detail at a future meeting.

Ms. Heidi Bundy, a member of the public, said she is at the meeting to represent the Townsend Family. She said she cannot speak to the exact route of Ticknor Road because she has never walked it. She said family members have walked it and may have maintained what is shown as the orange portion on the map. She said she believes Ticknor Road ends at the Cellar Hole but cannot say for sure.

She said it is her understanding that the section that runs to the Townsend family land did exist as a road at one time but has not been used as a public right of way for more than a century. She said she spoke with her father, and said he is not in favor of having a public right of way on their land. However, she said the family has always encouraged hiking, foot traffic, skiing, and hunting on the property. She said they no longer allow snowmobiles or motorized vehicles on their land. She said the family will continue to allow foot traffic from the public and there have been very few problems over the years. She said the public is welcome to use logging roads and the pathway that runs around the field. But the family does have an objection to making it a public right of way.

Chair Wood said Ms. Bundy told him previously that the family would be happy to work with the City to lay out a path that residents can use. He said, if that were done, it could become part of the path trail network that the City wants to develop. Ms. Bundy said she applauds the City's efforts to develop a trail network and she'd be happy to work with anyone on trails but would like to be informed of what is planned before work is started on the family's land.

Ms. Hirai thanked Ms. Bundy for the family's generosity in sharing its land with residents for so many years. She said development of a possible trail network with public and private connections is part of the Natural Resource chapter of the City's Master Plan.

Councilman Heistad said the City is indebted to the Townsend family. Chair Wood said Ms. Bundy's position is clear and she need not feel she has to attend future meeting about other sections of Ticknor Road.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Heistad that the Class 6 Road Committee recommends that the Lebanon City Council reclassify the portion of Ticknor Road that runs Easterly from Slayton Hill Road, past the City-owned Al Merrill Trail, to the cellar hole (on the North side of Ticknor Road) of the 'Ticknor Farm/Pest House' -- a Class 6 Road -- as a Class A Municipal trail, as defined in RSA 231-A:1(I).

This Class 6 Road portion of Ticknor Road is depicted on the Torbet map presented by Mark Goodwin and reviewed by the Board during the May 04, 2023 Class VI Advisory Board meeting.

The Committee further recommends this reclassified Class A Municipal Trail portion of Ticknor Road be subject to the restriction that the only permitted means of travel shall be feet, skis, and snowshoes.

No use shall be allowed in a manner, or in conditions that will encourage erosion, or will otherwise damage the trail. All wheeled vehicles or motorized vehicles, on or off road, shall be prohibited, excepting the allowed vehicular uses of abutting landowners for access of their land as set forth in RSA 231-A:1(I).

The public works director shall cause to be placed legible signs at the entrances to the Ticknor Road trail describing the restrictions contained herein as provided in RSA 231-A:4.

The Motion was seconded by Ms. Hirai.

The members discussed signage on other roads regarding restrictions of use. Mr. Wood reiterated that the Board will pass this recommendation on to the City Council, which would make the final decision.

**** The vote on the Motion was approved (4-0).***

Chair Wood said the rest of Ticknor Road will be discussed at future meetings. Mr. Goodwin said there may be other roads for discussion as well.

Councilman Heistad said it upsets him how much damage from erosion has happened to this section of Ticknor Road. He said he hopes more work is done to repair the damage. Ms. Hirai said this section is really nice to walk in the winter with snowshoes when the road is frozen.

Council Heistad encouraged anyone who supports this section of Ticknor Road being reclassified as a Trail to attend the City Council meeting when it is discussed. He said there is sometimes some reluctance by members to label paths as “trails” because it brings more public attention and increases traffic on trails. The Board members agreed they want to bring more attention to trails in the City and to encourage people to use them.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

None

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Review and Discussion of Class VI Road #29 – Ticknor Road from Townsend Property to Storrs Hill**
- **Other Class VI Roads to be Discussed**

6. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Hirai to adjourn the meeting at 7:13pm. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heistad.

**** The vote on the Motion was approved (4-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary