

FINAL

LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM 6:00PM WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicole Ford Burley (Chair and City Historian), Devin Wilkie (City Council Rep), Jeremy Rutter (Planning Board Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt Smith (Vice Chair), Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Catheryn Hembree (Associate Planner, Planning Department), Rich Adams (Custodian)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Ms. Hembree reviewed the City's meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 14, 2024

Amendments: Page 2 Line 4 Change to "Lavallee Brensinger, Architect"
Page 2 Line 14 Change to "antenna is"
Page 3 Line 2 Change "it" to "they"
Page 3 Line 8 Edit "roundabout"
Page 3 Line 20 Change "Meridian" to "Meriden"
Page 4 Line 18 Add s to Art
Page 4 Line 23 Edit "would"

A MOTION was made by Devin Wilkie to approve the February 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes as amended. The Motion was seconded by Jeremy Rutter.

** The Vote on the Motion was approved (3-0).*

3. PUBLIC REVIEW

None

4. PRESENTATION

A. 79 Hanover Street- Landmark Designation

Chair Ford Burley said the property was awarded landmark designation because of its architecture. Attorney Barry Schuster gave an overview of the history of the house and its owners. He presented several photos dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s.

5. STUDY ITEMS

Chair Ford Burley said the group will discuss Study Item B first, which is out of the order that was published on the agenda for this meeting.

B. Dana House Update**Trust Funds for Lead & Asbestos Mitigation / Clean-up**

Mr. Rich Adams said the start of the mitigation work needed for Dana House includes asbestos and lead testing, along with a clean-up day this summer. Mr. Adams said the cost of asbestos and lead testing, and a dumpster for one week, will be \$3,330.3. The group discussed the possibility of sharing the cost between the Heritage Commission budget and the City's Facilities budget.

Chair Ford Burley said Mr. Robert Leavitt, former City Historian, had donated \$25,000 to the Historical Society for Dana House. She said he had expressed in a letter that the intended use of the funds was for restoration, maintenance, and repair of Dana House. She said she will try to locate that letter. Ms. Hembree said the clean-up day will be set (possibly) for a Friday in June, and volunteers are welcome to help.

Mr. Adams said he would take photos of the items still left in Dana House and asked the Commission members to let him know if they want to save anything.

A MOTION was made by Jeremy Rutter to approve the use of \$1,650.00 from the Heritage Commission budget to be used for asbestos and lead testing and a dumpster for clean-up at the Dana House. The Motion was seconded by Devin Wilkie.

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved (3-0).***

Ms. Hembree said Lebanon School Superintendent Amy Allen told her she is in favor of giving the land that Dana House is on, which is owned by SAU 88, to the City. Ms. Hembree said a condition of the agreement the City has with SAU is that Dana House should be used for educational purposes. She said they discussed whether, if Dana House is renovated into a rental property, it could be rented to a school employee. Ms. Hembree suggested a meeting with the School District staff and Planning Department staff to plan how to proceed to achieve that goal.

A. Storrs Hill Ski Area Historic Landmark Designation

Chair Ford Burley said City Councilor Erling Heistad pointed out some erroneous data in the Landmark Designation for Storrs Hill Ski area, which was awarded last year. She said there was some confusion about exactly when the ski area was established, versus the date of the first ski jumps and the establishment of the Lebanon Outing Club. She said she would write some revised text to clarify the historical content. She said she is also planning to record an oral history with Mr. Heistad for the Historical Society in the next few weeks.

C. Kiosk

Chair Ford Burley said Mr. Smith is working on collecting current photos to match historic photos to create a "Before" and "After" photo display for the kiosk.

D. Recreation, Arts, and Parks Partnership Items**Names for Pocket Parks**

The group discussed several ideas for names for the two pocket parks noted by Ms. Hembree:

1. Pocket Park off Bridge Street:

- “Toll Bridge Park”

2. Pocket Park beside the Tunnel:

- “Tunbridge Park”
- “Bridgeton Park”
- “Mill Street Park”
- “Grist Mill Park”

Ms. Hembree said she would send these name ideas to Recreation, Arts, & Parks Director Paul Coats for his consideration.

Northern Rail Trail Signage / Greenway Signage

Ms. Hembree reminded the group that a Strategic Plan item for the Heritage Commission is to install historical signs along the Mascoma River Greenway and the Northern Rail Trail. She said the Recreation, Arts, & Parks staff has developed a draft design for signs that can be used all over the City. Chair Ford Burley said she is meeting next Friday with Recreation, Arts, & Parks staff, Conservation Commission members, and others to finalize the sign design.

The group discussed how the design could be a template for Northern Rail Trail / Mascoma River Greenway signs. They discussed topic and photo ideas, as well as possible locations for signs along the Northern Rail Trail and/or Mascoma River Greenway.

The group discussed the following topics/locations:

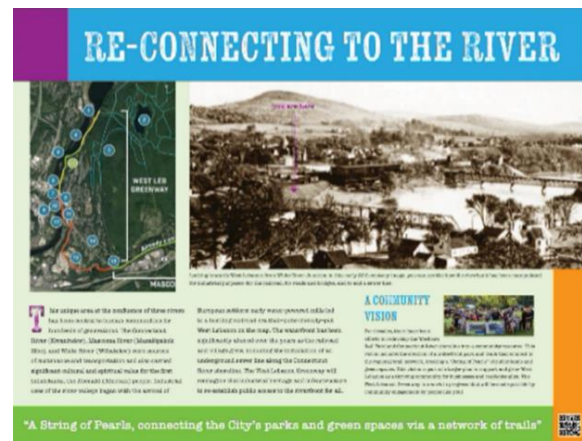
- Railroad – located near railroad tracks
- Northern Rail Trail conversion from defunct rail line to recreation trail
- Bridge history – located near Packard Covered Bridge
- Historic fires in Lebanon – located near sites of the fires

The group also discussed whether to locate signs in places where the trails meet within the City, for example, to mark where the Northern Rail Trail ends, and the Mascoma River Greenway begins (or vice versa).

Chair Ford Burley asked the members to think of other topic ideas for signs for the next Heritage Commission meeting. She also asked members to give their feedback on the draft design, which she said she would share with the sign development team.

Mural Depicting Lebanon History

Chair Ford Burley said she and Mr. Wilkie attended the last Arts & Culture Commission meeting and proposed the idea that the Heritage Commission would design a section of the mural in the Tunnel to depict “The History of Transportation in Lebanon.” She said the Commission



members were open to the idea. She said she would attend the next Arts & Culture meeting to formally submit the request. Chair Ford Burley said she has written a draft Call for Proposals for artists' submissions for the project.

The group discussed whether the timing of a Call for Proposals for the Heritage project would conflict with the Arts and Culture Commission's Call for Proposals for other sections of the mural. They also discussed if they should combine efforts and make this project part of the overall Request for Proposals for the mural. Mr. Wilkie said the Tunnel is well lit and the art should be very visible. He also said the Tunnel has the technology infrastructure for audio/visual presentations.

The group discussed other mural ideas:

- History of Recreation in Lebanon
- 1884-1889 detailed aerial maps
- Pre-1887 photo of view of Lebanon from Hanover Street

6. Other Business

A. Standing Reports from other Commissions/Boards

None

B. CAMP Training

Ms. Hembree confirmed the CAMP Training will be on July 11 from 8:00am – 4pm.

C. 60th Anniversary of 1964 Fire

Chair Ford Burley said the Historical Society will host a presentation on June 22, 2024 about the 1964 fire, probably at the Carter House.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- City Hall replacement doors/windows project
- Lebanon Opera House lighting project

8. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Devin Wilkie to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm. The Motion was seconded by Jeremy Rutter.

**** The vote on the Motion was approved (3-0).***

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary