



LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 8, 2024 - 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

1. Call to Order

- A. To participate in this meeting, please [join live via Microsoft Teams](#) or call 929-229-5356 (access code: 732 396 791#). If you have trouble accessing this meeting, please [email mark.goodwin@lebanonnh.gov](mailto:mark.goodwin@lebanonnh.gov)

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. July 11, 2024

3. Open to the Public

4. Permit Review

- A. None

5. Study Items

- A. City of Lebanon Online GIS Map Viewer - Basic Tutorial

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](https://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

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
6:30PM THURSDAY JULY 11, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Riley (Chair), Barbara Hirai, Erling Heistad (City Council Rep.), Ernst Oidtmann, Donald Lacey, Brandon Hill (Alt), Susan Almy (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce James (Vice Chair), Chris Johnson, Sean Dittrich (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. Mr. Goodwin reviewed the City's meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures.

Recording Secretary Paula Roux noted that Ms. Cinda Mercel will be taking over as Recording Secretary for the Conservation Commission meetings going forward.

At 6:41pm, Chair Riley approved the appointment of Mr. Hill to sit in for Vice Chair Bruce James and Ms. Almy to sit in for Mr. Johnson.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES May 09, 2024

A MOTION was made Don Lacey by to approve the April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes as amended. The Motion was seconded by Susan Almy.

Amendments:

Page 2, Line 10: Change to "Ticknor"

Page 2, Line 12: Change to "Lebrun"

Page 2&3: Change all "Barrow" references to "Barros"

Page 3, Line 7: Delete "as they can"

Page 10, Line 16: Change to "mugwort"

Page 10, Line 18: Change "Upper Valley Land Trust presentation" to "UV Birders post"

Page 10, Line 42: Change to "Lakeside"

Page 11, Line 15: Change "Trai" to "Trail"

**The MOTION was approved (7-0).*

3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public spoke.

4. PERMIT REVIEW – None**5. STUDY ITEMS – None****6. COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)**

Mr. Lacey said he has been mowing Bakers Crossing and 2 Rivers. He said there is a lot of mugwort at 2 Rivers and it does not seem like there are a lot of native plants growing there. He said he felt like 2 Rivers had a large flood plain area that might be ideal for a large-scale restoration plan or project.

The group discussed at length the need to gather a team of people to research and identify possible grant opportunities, and other ways to research and identify grant opportunities. Ms. Hirai suggested that they determine a trail management plan and a list of projects before a lot of work goes into grant writing.

The team discussed the previous grant proposal for the bridge over Great Brook. Mr. Goodwin said the state, which was the provider of the grant funds, has required that the project team use materials that are “USA-certified,” but have not clearly defined what that means. He said the funds will not be awarded until that designation is clarified, so the grant funding is on hold and, therefore, the project is on hold. Mr. Goodwin said he has consulted City Engineers about the status but was told the effort has stalled. Mr. Hill said he would talk to Mr. James to see if that can jump start the effort again.

The group discussed making trails ADA accessible. Ms. Hirai noted that one of the stewards had worked on accessible trails before becoming a steward in Lebanon. Mr. Hill said the City has a copy a federal document from the U.S. Forest Service, which can be used as a guideline. Ms. Hirai discussed the possibility of the Alana Cole trail being made accessible and noted a very muddy area near the parking lot that would need repair. The group discussed how there is a new owner of the property. Chair Riley suggested this project idea be put on hold for now until grant opportunities can be found.

Chair Riley gave an overview of the Forest For The Trees workshop series that concluded in May. She said she and Ms. Hirai met with Hartford’s (Vermont) Conservation Commission and County Forester last week and discussed the work that group has been doing.

B. Stewardship

Ms. Hirai said the group of volunteers from Hypertherm cleared the area between the two mitigation areas at 2 Rivers. She said the connector trail is now cleared and Mr. Lacey can mow it to maintain it. She said it was a successful volunteer activity. She said in the future they need to think about a trail system with signage, so people do not get lost on the trails. Mr. Hill reported on the project at Boston Lot on which he worked with Hypertherm volunteers. He said the project involved placing board bridges over very

1 muddy areas and buckthorn clearing. Ms. Hirai said another Hypertherm volunteer group
2 went to Honeysuckle Loop to pull honeysuckle.

3
4 Mr. Hill said he has been assisting Ranger John Tietjen as a second Ranger. He said they
5 have been installing the signs created by Ranger John in Boston Lot and the old signs will
6 be given as gifts to volunteers. Mr. Hill said there are two topographical signs in Boston
7 Lot that need either to be repaired or replaced, and he said he and Ranger John are
8 discussion options. The group discussed possible locations for signs in several
9 conservation trail areas.

10
11 Mr. Hill said a large tree had fallen and crushed the picnic tables on Boston Lot. He said
12 he cleared the tree, so the area is passable, but the tables need to be repaired or removed.
13 Mr. Hill also said there is part of a foundation and stairs that people have used to build
14 fires. He said there appears to be a shelter that has been built in this area as well.

15
16 Chair Riley reported that the crop of blueberries at Jackson Conservation Area is abundant and
17 great for picking. She encouraged the volunteers who had helped prune the bushes earlier this
18 year to go and pick the blueberries.

19
20 Ms. Hirai talked about having volunteers work on apple trees that need a lot of attention at Signal
21 Hill this fall. The group discussed strategies for pulling invasives in large areas, and whether the
22 use of herbicides / pesticides was a good option.

23
24 Mr. Lacey said that Eagle Scout Aiden Rafter replaced three bat boxes. Ms. Hirai asked for a
25 map of the locations where Mr. Rafter had installed the bat houses.

26 27 **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

28 29 **A. FYIs**

30 Chair Riley said the City is sending out a survey, asking residents what they would like to see
31 happen with the lower parking lot behind City Hall. She encouraged members to complete
32 the survey to share their visions for the area.

33 34 **A. Follow Ups**

35 Chair Riley said the City Council held a public hearing in July regarding the possible
36 amendments to Zoning Ordinance Section 214. She noted that Section 214 states that
37 City projects are subject to zoning requirements and the proposal was to exempt the City
38 projects from zoning by default. She said the proposed amendment failed to have a
39 motion at the meeting and did not move forward.

40
41 Chair Riley said that DES has requested more information on the City of Lebanon's
42 cottage project application at 0 Barros Street. She said she thought some of their
43 concerns, namely that a site plan was not submitted for evaluation before the
44 Conservation Commission was asked to give its comments, were also raised by DES. She
45 noted that site visits for this project and the proposed residential property project at the

1 former Densmore Brickyard have been planned. She encouraged Commission members
2 to attend. The group briefly discussed the possible wetlands impacts for the Densmore
3 Brickyard project.

4
5 Mr. Lacey said that Mr. Barton had plowed through the snowmobile trail and suggested
6 they take advantage of that or do something on the upper plateau.

7
8 Ms. Hirai noted that, in other meetings she has attended, draft motions are written prior to
9 meetings and are provided to the Committee members. She said it is a good way to have
10 clear and complete motions read into the record and is much more efficient than the
11 method that the Conservation Commission currently uses, which is trying to compose the
12 motions on the spot while the meeting is going on.

13
14 Mr. Goodwin explained that City Staff composes motions for some committees, like the
15 Planning Board, because the details are available through the application documents that
16 have been submitted. Chair Riley said she feels the Conservation Commission does a
17 great job making comments to DES or NH Association of Conservation Commission, but
18 she said she feels they are not as successful making comments to the Zoning Board. Mr.
19 Goodwin suggested this could be a future agenda item.

20 21 **C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities**

22 None

23 24 **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 25 • Trail System at 2 Rivers

26 27 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

28
29 *A MOTION was made by Brandon Hill to adjourn the meeting to 8:59pm. The Motion was*
30 *seconded by Erling Heistad.*

31
32 **The MOTION was approved (7-0).*

33
34 The meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

35
36 Respectfully submitted,
37 Paula Roux
38 Recording Secretary