

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
Thursday, January 28th, 2021
6:30 PM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Suellen Balestra (Alt.), Darla Bruno (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

- Mr. Mark Goodwin reviewed the meeting procedures for remote meetings and NH RSA 91-A “Right to Know” requirements. A Roll Call of Commission Members who participated remotely are listed above.
- It was decided to pass on the election of officers for this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 10th, 2020

Mr. Lacey MOVED to approve the December 10th, 2020 Minutes as amended and presented in the January 28th, 2021 agenda packet.

Seconded by Mr. James.

Amendments:

Page 2 & 3, Various lines Change “Oddly” to “Audley”

Page 3, Line 14 Add “Mr. Heistad said he was a foreman of a construction crew years ago and he said that what Audley needs the Conservation Commission will not want to give. The ground would be wrecked after the construction company was done using it and would not be environmentally valuable afterward. Mr. Heistad said he never saw a construction site reclaimed to a point that they could be proud of. He doubted that Audley would be capable of treating the land the way the Conservation Commission would like to see it treated. Mr. Heistad cautioned approving Audley using Two Rivers for their construction site.

Page 3, Line 30 Change “ration” to “ratio”

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy, Bruce James, and Chris Johnson all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).***

3. PERMIT REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. Goals and Objectives for Calendar Year 2021-including Master Plan Action Item Implementation, as well as additional efforts desired by the Conservation Commission members:

Mr. Goodwin asked the Commission what they would like to work on and make a priority for the Conservation Commission to accomplish in the coming year. Chair Oidtmann said that land conservation was his top priority. Mr. James liked the idea of educational programs for the public.

Ms. Almy was concerned with the wildlife corridor being split by Route 120 near the hospital. She was concerned with the people that speed down that corridor which makes it difficult for the animals to cross. She was wondering if education could be done on that topic. Discussion took place among the Commission members about ways to slow the traffic down on Route 120. Some thoughts were light-up speed signs, educational signs explaining why the speed was lower in that area, such as animal crossings, and somehow making the road look narrower.

Chair Oidtmann said that the NH Department of Transportation had set up a study for the Route 120 corridor from Lebanon to Lahaye. He had emailed Marcy Miller with some suggestions. Ms. Almy suggested narrowing the roadway by putting in grass strips between the bike lanes and the roadway itself. Mr. James said the Mt. Support triangle area on Route 120 could be a study area for the Conservation Commission this coming year. It was suggested that educating the public about the wildlife corridor could be helpful.

Ms. Hirai would like to acquire more land to protect and would also like to work on getting the Volunteer Stewardship Program going. Mr. Goodwin said the City has an open space vision that is being worked on that will help the Conservation Commission identify land to protect.

Vice Chair Riley agreed with Ms. Hirai and would like to see the Volunteer Stewardship Program going as well. She said getting the website and forms up and running would be key to the program. She would also like to work on the amphibian Big Night again this year as well as working with the public on invasive species such as the Garlic Mustard initiative that was done last year. She would also like to see a more formal Tree Board created.

Mr. James suggested taking some time during the February and March meetings to prepare a statement to send to the State of NH on the Route 120 corridor. Mr. James said he would work on a draft document that he will bring to the Commission in February to go over and then perhaps it could be finalized during the March meeting. He asked that the Commission members send him any of their thoughts and concerns about Route 120 so he can work on the draft document before the next meeting in February.

B. Concise Statement for Proposed Zoning Amendments: Prepare a concise statement with regard to certain proposed Zoning Amendments, in accordance with Section 1000.4D of the Zoning Ordinance: Mr. Tim Corwin, Senior Planner, spoke about needing concise statements from the Conservation Commission for the proposed Zoning ordinance amendments. He explained that there were three amendments going on the ballot this year. Amendment #1 was about adding additional building height; Amendment #2 was about Houses of Worship; and Amendment #3 would clarify maximum

density requirements in the R-3 District. He came before the Conservation Commission back in November and explained the proposed Amendments.

The members discussed the concise statements, and all agreed they were fine as presented to them for review.

Ms. Almy MOVED to accept the concise statements as the Conservation's concise statements for the proposed Zoning Amendments as presented on Page 3 of Agenda Item 4B-Concise Statement for proposed Zoning Amendments.

Seconded by Mr. Johnson.

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Christopher Johnson, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Bruce James, and Susan Almy all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

*** The Vote on the MOTION passed (7-0).**

The concise statements are as follows:

Amendment #1 (Additional Building Height in the R-1 District)

The Conservation Commission approves of and endorses the adoption of the proposed Zoning Amendment as it supports the goals of the Lebanon Master Plan. The proposed amendment will enable the development of needed housing in the City in a more compact form that minimizes impervious coverage and avoids the excessive disturbance of natural vegetation by facilitating the placement of parking underneath buildings.

Amendment #2 (House of Worship from Special Exception use to Permitted Use)

The Conservation Commission has determined the proposed Zoning Amendment has no conservation implications.

Amendment #3 (Clarify Maximum Density Requirements in the R-3)

The Conservation Commission has determined the proposed Zoning Amendment has no conservation implications.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors: Vice Chair Riley gave an update on the fire that took place at Boston Lot in September 2020. She found out that it was a small brush fire. The fire took place on the access road and it might have been caused by a cigarette.

Vice Chair Riley also talked about a new neighbor that went into the commercial building on East Wilder Road near the Alana Cole Conservation area. It is a Montessori School and they put up a new fence along their portion of the woodlands, from the parking lot to the southern border of the Alana Cole Conservation area on the river side. Ms. Hirai said there was a tree down over the entrance to the trail that may need to be cleaned up this Spring.

Ms. Hirai said that she had read somewhere that there may be some grant money for conservation work along the river. Mr. Goodwin said he knew about that money coming from FEMA and he thought it was to be used for flood plain restoration projects.

Mr. Heistad talked about interest by some people in the City in having additional cross-country trails within the City. Currently the cross-country ski team travels to Meriden to practice and for meets. He had been approached recently by some people asking that if they paid for a trail to be designed if one could be put in at Goodwin Conservation area, making a loop around Ticknor and back down?

Mr. Heistad MOVED to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

Seconded by Ms. Riley.

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Christopher Johnson, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Bruce James, Barbara Hirai, and Susan Almy all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

**** The Vote on the MOTION passed (8-0).***

Ms. Hirai would like to see the Class VI Roads that have been turned into Class A trails used to make a cross country skiing course.

Mr. Goodwin said that it could be worth looking into. This could be an opportunity to improve some existing trails at Tichner.

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group: Mr. Lacey reported that the Division of Pesticide Control approved his special permits for Baker Crossing and Mill Road early. He had already been out about 5 times treating since the first of the year.

C. Workshops & Educational Opportunities: Vice Chair Riley told the Commission about a training opportunity through the Harris Center in preparation for the amphibian Big Night. This will be a Zoom meeting on March 18th, 2021 from 7:00PM to 8:30PM.

6. OTHER BUSINESS: Chair Oidtmann asked about the current use financial statements. Mr. Goodwin said he had not received a report which meant to him that nothing had changed in that account. When it did change, he was sure he would be alerted to it by the Finance Department.

Chair Oidtmann spoke about the bog bridge building project that is to be done at Boston Lot at the end of May. He said he would order the wood for the bridges. He will need help to get the logs up there and to build the bridges.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara R. Higgins
Recording Secretary