

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/Live)
Thursday, August 8, 2024
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Riley (Chair), Bruce James (Vice Chair), Susan Almy, Alternate, Erling Heistad, Barbara Hirai, Chris Johnson (remote), Don Lacey, Ernst Oidtmann

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brandon Hill

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Lacey *MOVED* to approve the July 11, 2024, Minutes as presented in the August 8, 2024, agenda packet and amended.

Seconded by Mr. Oidtmann

Amendments:

- Page 2, Lines 15&16, Change “We discussed at length the need to gather a team of people to research...” to “other ways to research” remove the “and”
- Page 2, Line 32 Change “formerly Bob MacNeil’s property” to “There is a new owner of the MacNeil property”.
- Page 2, Lines 37&38 Change “She said she and Miss Hirai met with” ...to “We attended a site walk that Hartford’s Conservation Commission and County Forester led through the Hartford Town forest.”
- Page 3, Line 11 For clarification “The picnic tables are at the Mill Parcel.”
- Page 3, Lines 24&25, Change “Mr. Lacey said that Eagle Scout, Aiden Rafter came and replaced three bat boxes” to “Mr. Lacey said that Eagle Scout, Aiden Rafter replaced one of the existing four bat boxes at Baker’s Crossing and put two additional bat boxes up at new locations along the riverside of the DPW mowed right of way. The three other previously existing bat boxes were left in place including one that would have been very dangerous to replace because it is located on a stag that is constantly dropping
- Page 4, Lines 5&6 Change “Mr. Lacey said that Mr. Baker had plowed through the snowmobile trail...” to “Mr. Lacey pointed out that since Robert Baker had mowed a trail for the snowmobile

trail through Baker's Crossing and that since he had done that, we should take advantage of this action to make some use of the upper plateau. Following up on Mark Goodwin's request, I mowed a trail around the upper plateau this Summer adding to the trail system at Baker's Crossing." Mr. Lacey also stated that Barbara Hirai had asked for a map of where all the City bat boxes are located".

It was noted that in the May 9th meeting minutes Barros Street was misspelled.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Voting Yea: Mr. Johnson, Ms. Harai, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Oidtmann, Mr. James, Ms. Riley

Voting Nay: None

*** The Vote on the MOTION was approved as amended. (6-0).**

3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one came forth

4. PERMIT REVIEW: NONE

5. STUDY ITEMS:

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

Mr. Goodwin led this training session for this intuitive tool, by starting everyone on the Lebanon, New Hampshire site, Maps & Property Information, where there is a menu of choices including the GIS Maps

Note that Assessor's database is only at the parcel level and shows assessments. The GIS tool that Mr. Goodwin uses is linked to the Assessor's tool, and it grabs approximately six of the more common attributes for a parcel and provides them to the user so one does not need to go into the Assessor's tool.

GIS Maps is an online GIS mapping tools which as noted above is a combination of tools also including Google's base maps, and when you come in you first see the entire City, and then you can zoom a lot or a little, using the +/- or mouse or whatever your preference is. The "little guy" to the left can be dragged to the street you want to look at, and the system then takes you to a view of the street, move up and down the street, or you can look at any specific property on this same street. Mr. Goodwin uses this tool daily. Upper right corner you can go back to the map overview with a click.

The quickest way to get to a property you are interested in looking up, is to type in the address, or the owner's name, or the parcel number. The aerial views are currently from 2021. One can also type in City of Lebanon, to see all the properties owned by the City.

Within the GIS tool, you can go to the "Property Record" card, to learn more about the history of the home, such as sales prices, assessments, heating systems, square footage, a photo (usually quite dated), lot size, etc. It also shows the footprint of the home and distinguishes the garage and the first versus second floor, as well as the number of bedrooms.

Mr. Goodwin has been spending much time recently looking at homes in Lebanon, to distinguish which homes have oil and gas but the accuracy level is unknown. Assessors would need to go inside each home to confirm heating. Property owners are supposed to request permits when they make changes to their systems.

Mr. Goodwin discussed layers of information that is available within this GIS tool. Base Theme defaults to Road Map, but there are four options and the one he uses most frequently is the 2021 Aerial Imagery, where you can see a good bit. Note that there is a disclaimer on these sites as they are not survey plans but rather best estimates of where property lines are. Mr. Goodwin can update with other tools such as CAD drawings. Worst case a property line might be off by 100’.

Accuracy varies depending on the source-

Next theme was Utilities, Zoning and Resource Protection (Zoning District, Riverbank Protection, NH Shoreland Protection, with feet options, Wetlands, FEMA Flood Zones, etc.), Natural Resources Natural and Water Resources).

Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Heistad arrived at 7:35 PM.

There is some municipal scale soil information, as well as significant Ecological areas, and NH Rare & Endangered Heritage areas. These are from the NRI and are very useful for the planning committee and indicates they need to take a closer look at these. They show 1,000 ft. radius.

There is also National and State registry information, Historic areas within Lebanon, Wards and Voting Stations, Conservation Lands and Trails, to name some.

A project that Mr. Goodwin has been working on for some time, is future “theme-based tools” information with twelve layers for the user such as historic sites, hiking trails, community gardens, profiles of hiking trails, and much more, driven by the goal to serve Lebanon residents. He does not want to bog down the current GIS tool.

The last item he showed is land that is considered “conservation property” or incumbered. The state stores all this information since many towns do not house this.

Mr. Goodwin highlighted the Choose Selection Mode which allows the user to select a group of property owners and type out their addresses for the potential to send them a mailing. There is also graph and measuring tools under Markup.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)

There will be a Sustainable Lebanon Green the Ground event at Baker’s Crossing on Saturday, September 14th from 10AM to noon. This event will focus on meadow management and plant diversity.

.

There will be an in-person meeting (as well as Zoom) about predators at the Howe Library, in Hanover, Wednesday, August 14th, at 5:30 to 7:00 PM. This is part of the “Seeing the Forest for the Trees program.

Chair Riley will send out an email with the meeting link for Zoom.

B. Stewardship

Ms. Harai contacted people from Hypertherm.

Point in Time Homeless Count is coming up in a couple of weeks. No details provided.

Mr. Oidtmann spoke about the recent successful Mascoma River cleanup. More than 5,000 pounds was cleared out including a safe weighing 5K lbs., 1K lbs. of pipes, numerous tires as well as other debris.

Monitors and Stewards

Chair Riley visited the Mill Parcel with Nicole Ford Burley to look at getting better signage for the trail there. Nicole is creating a “story map”. They are looking to have signage for this trail and tie in the historical studies. They are also considering QR codes, or a link to the City of Lebanon website, however, the phone reception is bad there, it is believed that the signs will need to be comprehensive.

She shared several high-quality historic pictures of this area including The East Lebanon Mill Parcel building, The Hamilton Bobbin Mill and surrounding areas.

Ideally, they will have clear signs with respectful verbiage about the archeological ruins that are there, the botany and biology of what is there. Visitors will have the ability to look up more information when they return home.

Ms. Harai is going to check with Mr. Ron Bailey to get more historical information about the deed and dates and the clearing.

Ms. Almy said there was a public hearing about a planning project last week that she attended, and there was a semi-final report about the north corridor of 120 with a fair amount of attention to setting up parks and public recreation. The authors were quite open to following up on this and issues of wetland and shale that make plans for trails along 120 rather difficult. Ms. Almy stated there was no attention paid to animals, particularly large ones. The focus was mostly on plants.

Chair Riley was away so she could not attend this meeting, so she reached out today to City staff, to get more documentation on the draft project, so that Conservation Committee can be involved in this, as well as several other boards that have an interest in this project. Chair Riley will be sure to send committee members the link to the PowerPoint that was presented at the meeting. Blasting has already occurred.

Chair Riley talked about the Brickyard Development and there are wetland crossings at both the north and south ends. There will be a public hearing, and there will be a lot of questions. The owner owns the pond. There will be a lot of clearing, she does not know about blasting and does not know if this project will come to Conservation Commission, so it is important for members to use their voices on behalf of the City of Lebanon.

Mr. Goodwin mentioned that the City is looking for a Conservation Commission representative for the Housing Task Force that is being formed. They need one volunteer from this committee. Ms. Almy said she will be the Conservation Commission representative to the working group. This task force is a longer term (2 years) initiative.

Mr. Oidtmann noted he worked with a group on the northwest corner of Boston Lot and built some nice bridges with the team, two Fridays ago. The team consisted of 3 Conservation Committee members as

well as 15 people from Hypertherm. They worked on the east side of the lake. They will do this work again with a team from Hypertherm on August 30.

Mr. Heistad said that the Mascoma River Cleanup on July 27 was sponsored by the Conservation Commission and the Rotary Club.

- C. Wild about Lebanon
No updates
- D. Amphibian Crossing
No updates
- E. LUCT/Current Use
No updates
- F. Other Subcommittees
No updates

7. OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Heistad *MOVED* to adjourn the meeting at 9:05PM
***Seconded* by Mr. Lacey**

***The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary