

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING ROOM 3, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2025 6:00 PM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Ms. Hembree reviewed the City's meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 08, 2025

A MOTION was made by Jeremy Rutter to approve the January 08, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. The MOTION was seconded by Matt Smith.

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

3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A. Presentation and Request for Personal Monument in Colburn Park

Mr. Devon Blanchard said he is requesting a permanent monument to honor his uncle and aunt, Jason Timmons and Andrea Murphy, and their unborn child. He said they were victims of a 2013 automobile crash on Route 89, where another driver – attempting to end his own life – crashed into their vehicle.

He shared a video of a NH Chronicle TV news magazine story about Mr. Blanchard's holiday lights display, which he has erected in Colburn Park each year since 2017 as a tribute to the deceased family.

Mr. Blanchard said the lights display has been vandalized each of the past three years. He said he would like to install a permanent display that will not be as easily destroyed. He gave an overview of the draft display design (See Figure 1).

Chair Ford Burley said she is aware of the lights display Mr. Blanchard has put up in Colburn Park each year and said she appreciates his efforts to turn a tragedy into something joyful for the community. She said she is sorry that the display keeps getting vandalized.

She said she has concerns about putting permanent personal monuments into Colburn Park because it is a public space. She said Lebanon is a large community and considering one personal monument really opens the door to potential requests for personal monuments from the entire Upper Valley community.

Mr. Blanchard said the work he has done putting up the lights each year he has done as volunteer work for the City. He said the fact that he's volunteering on behalf of the City makes it less of a personal monument.

Mr. Smith stated that the few permanent monuments that exist are notable for the subject's lasting impact on the City and their place in the City's collective history. He noted that many significant contributions have not been recognized with monuments and that is an exceptionally high bar to clear.

He explained that the Heritage Commission is charged with recognizing the resources of the City that have historic value. He said the Commission issues recommendations for the City Council and the Planning Board as to what should be preserved or officially catalogued. He said they are also responsible for preserving the historic character of the Colburn Park Historic District as a whole. He said he did not think that this monument affects any existing structures or enhances the character of the Historic District, and he did not feel that this proposal falls within the scope of this Commission.

Mr. Wilkie said he would want to know the specific location of the monument, as well as the materials and manner of installation planned. He said he is concerned that, if there already has been vandalism, there should be a process or plan to handle future vandalism attempts. He said he agrees that this project may not fall within the purview of the Heritage Commission.

Mr. Blanchard said he spoke with Parks, Recreation, and Arts Director Paul Coats, who recommended he bring his request to the Heritage Commission and any other Boards who may need to review it. He said he has not had to request a permit to put up the light display because he got ongoing permission from Mr. Coats in 2018.

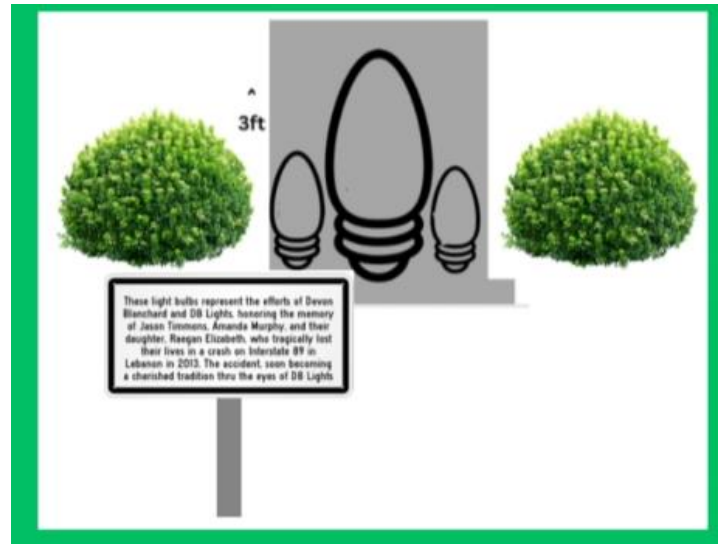


Figure 1: Blanchard Monument Design

Ms. Hembree noted that the Heritage Commission would act in an advisory role for this proposal and would not make any decisions regarding whether the monument would be erected and the City Manager's office would be the one to give final approval.

The Committee members agreed that, considering the many people who have contributed to Lebanon's history and have not been recognized, they would be hesitant to endorse placing the proposed monument in Colburn Park. They encouraged Mr. Blanchard to appeal to the appropriate committees/boards to get their approval to make his display more permanent in another location.

4. PUBLIC REVIEW

A. Upper Valley Music Center, Inc.: Request for Certificate of Approval pursuant to Article IV, Section 408 Historic District of the Zoning Ordinance to construct a 2-story addition to their existing building located at 8 South Park Street, Tax Map 92, Lot 10, Lebanon, NH in the LD zone. HC2025-01

Mr. Smith recused himself from this discussion because he said he is employed by the Upper Valley Music Center.

Mr. Ben Van Vliet, Director of the Upper Valley Music Center, was present on behalf of the applicant. He gave a history of the Center, and an overview of the project, which involves a new two-story addition to the existing structure on South Park Street.

He said the reasons for the project are:

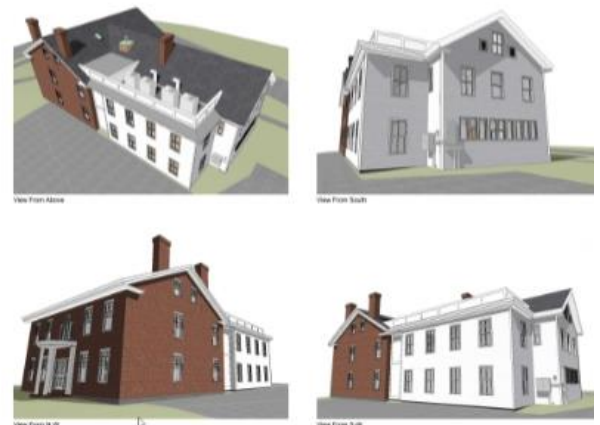
- The second floor of the existing building is only accessible by stairs
- The expansion will allow for more group class programming

Mr. Van Vliet gave a history of the building and the changes to the structure, which he said was the former Kendrick-Wood House. He went over the plans and proposed location for the new L-shaped addition.

The group discussed the windows on the building, and how the windows in the new addition would complement the existing windows. Mr. Van Vliet said all the windows in the new addition will match each other.

Chair Ford Burley thanked Mr. Van Vliet for presenting the history of the building. Mr. Van Vliet said Mr. Jim Perkins worked with him to create the historical information as part of the LCHIP (Land Community Heritage Investment Program) project.

A MOTION was made by Devin Wilkie to grant the Certificate of Approval pursuant to Article 4, Section 408, to the Upper Valley Music Center for its addition as presented to the Heritage Commission. The MOTION was seconded by Jeremy Rutter.



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

Mr. Smith rejoined the meeting.

5. STUDY ITEMS

A. Landmark Properties Designations

Ms. Hembree noted that the company that the City has ordered plaques from is not currently taking orders. She said she is looking for a new place to purchase plaques.

The group discussed several potential candidates for Landmark Designation, including:

- The former Nabisco factory (Spencer Street, Lebanon) – currently being renovated into artist studio space
- 4 Aces Diner (West Lebanon)- the structure was originally a historic Dining Car
- Daylight Store (Main Street West Lebanon) – original finishes are historic
- One of the historic structures on Crafts Ave, West Lebanon

The group also discussed whether no designations should be awarded this year.

At 7:12pm, Dr. Rutter left the meeting.

B. Master Plan Chapter Update

Chair Ford Burley suggested that an in-depth discussion about the Master Plan update be held off until the March meeting. She agreed to review the Existing Conditions and Trends Chapter and provide her edits/suggestions.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Rail Trail Signage

Chair Ford Burley shared a mockup of possible images for the Rail Trail signs. The Commission members approved the images presented and Chair Ford Burley said she would begin looking for grants to fund the sign project.

B. Standing Reports from other Commissions/Boards

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Smith asked that the status of Dana House be added to the next meeting's agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ford Burley adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary