

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021
LebanonNH.gov/Live
7:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mimi Hains (Chair), Rebecca Book, Doug Boisvert and Jeremy Rutter (Planning Board Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (City Council Rep.), Bruce Bronner (Alt. Council Rep), Fran Hanchett, Linda Cole and Raymond Book (Alt. Member)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

GUESTS: Lyssa Papazian (Historic Preservation Consultant)
Nicole Burley (Historical Society)
Billy (community member)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A “Right-to Know” requirements

Ms. Hains called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Ms. Owens reviewed the procedures for a remote meeting. A Roll Call vote was taken and all those attending the meeting remotely are listed above.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 10, 2021

Ms. Book MOVED to approve the February 10, 2021 Minutes as presented . Seconded by Mr. Rutter.

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Hains, Ms. Book, Mr. Boisvert and Mr. Rutter all voting Yea.

None voting Nay.

**The MOTION was approved (4-0)*

3. PUBLIC REVIEW - None

4. STUDY ITEMS

A. Dana House

Ms. Owens discussed “Right-to-Know” laws as they pertain to working groups and subcommittees. In order to remain in compliance, tasks should be assigned to individual members who then bring information back to the full Commission. Holding separate working group or subcommittee meetings, which are not accessible to the public, is not permitted. Although the current plan is to open the Dana House as a museum, there continues to be discussion regarding its future. Chair Hains presented the idea of a survey to better understand what type of public space people are interested in having in the community. Ms. Book has created a one-minute monologue about the Dana House to accompany the survey. Ms. Book and Mr. Giles are working on the idea of an interactive “story map” , which could include a virtual tour of the Dana House. This could increase public awareness of the Dana House and be shared with schools for educational purposes.

B. Special Projects- Women's History Month

Ms. Owens wrote and submitted a piece celebrating Black History Month to Leb News in February. This month's topic is Women's History Month and Chair Hains is pursuing a story about a woman connected to the Soldier's Memorial Building. At this time, she still needs to connect with Ms. Hanchett for details and clarification. The publication deadline for Leb News is next Wednesday, March 17th. Chair Hains reported that she has spoken with Sue Reed, who has collected many local stories from her mother- a Lebanon resident in her nineties. While they don't necessarily align with the monthly themes the Commission has chosen, they are relevant. She hopes to have these stories compiled, edited and ready to share in the next few months. Ms. Book offered a piece that she wrote regarding Vietnam Veterans Day, which is March 29, for submission in May.

5. Other Business

A. CLG 2020 Project Update

Ms. Papazian joined the meeting at 7:36 pm to present her report, regarding the potential increase of the boundaries of the Colburn Park Historic District, to the Commission. This involves expanding the time period of significance within the district to 1971. Ms. Papazian does recommend that the boundaries be increased, but only enough to include, "immediately adjacent properties that enhance the district's significance in areas of architecture and community planning." She notes that the Colburn Park district is listed as primarily significant as a New England town/city green or common. Since it was nominated in 1985, the district no longer contains any single-family homes. This illustrates its shift to a true city center, comprised of cultural, religious, government and commercial institutions. Ms. Papazian stated that the properties she recommends for inclusion are limited to those in clear visual sight of Colburn Park and enhance its significance as a city center. She provided a detailed description of properties she believes to be eligible for inclusion, as well as those that she recommends be excluded from the district expansion. For example, Ms. Papazian found that the Mascoma Bank building has been altered too significantly from its original architectural style to be a contributing structure within the district. It would need to exist for 50 years in its current style before being eligible. Ms. Owens noted that the Heritage Commission did not exist when the alterations were made to the Mascoma Bank building. The building at 31 Hanover Street is being excluded for similar reasons. In the future, it will be very important for the Commission to consider its role in preserving the historical and architectural integrity of building when considering proposed alterations. The Carter Community Building and the Emerson Block/Former Telephone Building, both located on Campbell Street, are recommended for inclusion in the district. The buildings located at 2 Mascoma Street- former home of the IGA, Butson's Market, Lebanon Village Market, Sunrise Buffet and a Garage- are also recommended as additions to the district. The Lebanon Mall (including its landscaping, fountain, paved pedestrian walkway, etc.) is significant as an example of an urban planning project and extends the sense of public space from Colburn Park. For this reason, it is recommended that the Mall be included in the expanded historic district.

After reading and considering Ms. Papazian's report, both the City and the Heritage Commission must decide whether or not to pursue these recommendations regarding the expansion of the Colburn Park Historic District. Property owner notification is required in order to move forward with the project. Chair Hains asked the members to review the report and provide their feedback to Ms. Owens within a week.

B. Lebanon's Tree Heritage

Ms. Owens reports that their budding efforts in Lebanon to gain a better understanding of the City's tree heritage. The Parks and Recreation department has had an informal Tree Commission, which they are interested in formalizing. Ms. Owens has been in touch with their director, Mr. Paul Coats, and is waiting for more information.

6. Other Business

Ms. Owens reported that the City Council will have a public hearing soon regarding the transfer of the fountains to the Arts & Culture Commission. At this time, their primary task in regard to the fountains will be maintenance. There is a Heritage Commission seat on the Arts & Culture Commission. Chair Hains will attend their next meeting on March 23rd.

The members received a “Welcome Lebanon” email asking them to watch a training video and sign an acknowledgement. Ms. Owens asked that everyone check their emails and complete this task as soon as possible.

Ms. Owens asked Ms. Burley about the Historical Society’s plans for celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Northern Rail Trail this summer. Ms. Burley stated that they are still in the planning stages, but are considering creating displays with information and photos to place at the trail heads. Ms. Owens suggested that the Heritage Commission could collaborate with the Historical Society to celebrate the Rail Trail.

7. Future Agenda Items

Passport Program Project

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Book MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Seconded by Mr. Rutter.

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Hains, Ms. Book, Mr. Rutter, and Mr. Boisvert all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

**** The MOTION was unanimously approved (4-0)***

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Castillo
Recording Secretary