



**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 14, 2026 - 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: 732 317 473#). If you have trouble accessing this meeting, please [email Mark Goodwin](#)

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. February 12, 2026
B. April 9, 2026

3. Open to the Public

4. Permit Review

- A. None

5. Study Items

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.

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Lebanon Conservation Commission Agenda
May 14, 2026

Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupt virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

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DRAFT

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
February 12, 2026
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Riley (Chair), Bruce James (Vice Chair), Barbara Hirai, Erling Heistad, Donald Lacey, Ernst Oidtmann

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Almy (Alt.), Chris Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator) , Brian Vincent, City Engineer (Virtual)

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

2
3 A. Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 6:33PM.

4
5 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

6
7 A. January 8, 2026

8
9 Pg. 2, Line 28, add the letter u to Spaulding

10
11 *Mr. Ernst Oidtmann MOVED to approve the minutes as amended*
12 *Seconded by Ms. Barbara Hirai*

13
14 **The MOTION was approved (6-0)*

15
16 **3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

17
18 **4. PERMIT REVIEW:**

19
20 A. **City of Lebanon, Hanover Street Ext., unnamed stream** – Review and Comment on NHDES
21 Wetland Major Impact Application for the replacement of a 60” Reinforced Concrete
22 Pipe/Corrugated Metal Pipe with a 12” wide by 4’ high open bottom box culvert. **CC2026-01-**
23 **DES #2026-00115 (Department of Environmental Services)**

24
25 Mr. Brian Vincent, City Engineer, and Mr. Mike Vignale attended today’s meeting representing this
26 project. They shared a site plan map of the area to be discussed, with areas where the work is to be done
27 outlined in red. Mr. Vincent provided them an overview of what they are proposing. The current pipe is in
28 very poor condition, including the 60’ pipe, so much so that this resulted in a sinkhole last fall. A
29 temporary fix was completed on it. . The proposal is a replacement of this culvert with a 4’ tall by 12’
30 wide reinforced concrete culvert with concrete footings on either side.

1
2 It will have concrete head walls, and they are proposing river stone with the inlet and outlet along the
3 entrance and exit of the head walls so that these protect the stream bed with the river stone. Construction
4 would be done working dry so to speak with a dewatering basin and the bypass there would be with
5 cofferdam on either side, to help keep the work zone dry.

6
7 He calculated that there will be a permanent wetland impact of 2,046 square feet, 2,255 linear feet of
8 stream impact, and temporary wetland impacts would be 3,403 *square feet*.

9
10 The wetlands were shown in red for the impacted areas. The plan allows for a minimization of wetlands
11 impact. He also showed a wetland overlay view, so that they could see the sinuous route this stream
12 currently take. Currently it angles slightly diagonally through the areas. Chair Riley said that there are
13 wetland impacts and stream impacts on both sides of the road. She likes that they are proposing an open
14 bottom box culvert going in here. She asked them to comment on removing some of the sinuosity of the
15 stream and show where the stream is now versus where it will be, noting that this stream is perpendicular
16 to the road but that it is also significantly shifted and therefore will involve shifting the route of the
17 stream.

18
19 She asked to discuss the culvert and also, she thinks it is moving a little bit of the sinuosity of the stream,
20 and generally speaking, complicated streams are better. Mr. Vincent shared that what he is seeing is more
21 of a linear connection so it does not have as much cross flow, but he's happy to look at it again and
22 discuss with ConCom. He also added that he thinks it is less of a scour problem.

23
24 Chair Riley added that in general the wetland impacts are one thing, but that stream impacts are another,
25 and in general, what is good for a stream is to encourage sinuosity as this can slow down the water.

26
27 She continued that best management practices for stream crossings also includes reducing wetland
28 impacts and any vegetation removal, and these would certainly be reduced if the routing of half the stream
29 was not altered. She understands why they want to go orthogonal to the road (at a right angle). In this case
30 it might prove worthwhile to still cross it in the slightly diagonal route that the culvert takes today,
31 because it allows the stream to maintain its curvature.

32
33 Vice Chair Bruce James asked what relationship this new culvert might have with the upstream water
34 flow, and particularly the Brickyard Project. He thinks they have plans for their stormwater management,
35 but asked if this change has any impact or will it be sufficient for increased flows from that development
36 area?

37
38 Mr. Vincent answered that that development did not increase flows, therefore there is no change. He
39 elaborated that they have detention and treatment systems in place that mitigate the additional hard
40 surfaces that are being designed.

41
42 Mr. Erling Heistad added that the velocity will increase and that will in fact then increase the scouring,
43 because it straightens; if you have the same starting elevation and finish elevation and shorten the distance
44 between the two, you will have a much steeper stream flow.

45
46 Chair Riley spoke some about the Brickyard Project, and how they got into some of the parameters that
47 DES is looking at when you are crossing a stream, such as the entrenchment ratio, what is the ratio
48 between the flood width and the normal bank width and what are the flows and what is the watershed

1 area? So, for that project, they are proposing an alternative design for the crossing because the stream
2 crossing calculations would dictate a much more expensive and larger span. That is what the formulas
3 say, but she does not know about DES.

4
5 Mr. Don Lacey asked if this is the main outlet for the entire watershed into the Mascoma River? He,
6 along with Vice Chair James, agreed that this shows how important and extraordinary the function of the
7 wetland becomes because even with the heavy rain flows, we have had in that area, this massive wetland
8 area along Mount Support Road deals with this. Without these wetlands, this area would get washed out
9 every time the area has a “100-year storm”, which have become very frequent in recent years. It speaks to
10 the importance of the wetlands, and the bigger culvert is better. This watershed goes all the way up to the
11 intersection of LaHaye and Mount Support Road. All of these details are in today’s meeting packet. Mr.
12 Mark Goodwin shared a watershed map with ConCom.

13
14 Chair Riley said they can also go to Stream Stats, a mapping tool from the U.S. Geological Survey.

15
16 Vice Chair James said that with the bigger culvert and given how effective this very large wetland is
17 compared to channeling efforts, along with them putting in a bigger culvert with an open bottom,
18 environmentally, in terms of wetlands, this should be beneficial.

19
20 Mr. Ernst Oidtmann asked if there have been any previous issues with this culvert, wondering if it really
21 needs to be replaced? It does. Mr. Vincent said it is extremely old, and in terrible condition, and there has
22 already been a recent sinkhole there, with a temporary fix.

23
24 They have never seen any flooding issues here; none going over Hanover Street. The proposed capacity
25 will provide even more capacity. He added that for pre and post flows for all the developments upstream
26 of this, they always control their stormwater flow. So, there isn’t an increase in peak flow in any one
27 storm, at least by the models they run. They are not concerned about flooding.

28
29 Mr. Oidtmann wanted to know what is going to happen with the beautiful pieces of granite there now. Mr.
30 Vincent said they are proposing reinforced steel concrete rather than reusing the granite, mainly due to
31 cost and resiliency. Hand stacking the granite would add to the cost of this project.

32
33 He said there should be no more conveyance than there has been in the past; the impact should only be
34 what they see in these plans.

35
36 Chair Riley asked about the slope if it is a two to one. Mr. Vignale confirmed it very closely matches the
37 existing slope. It is not being “daylighted” much more than it currently is.

38
39 Ms. Hirai asked how far the stream is actually going to be moved, at the intake and outtake, Mr. Vincent
40 said the upstream side is about 10’ and on the downstream side about 15’. They plan to use river stone to
41 re-create the riverbed, all rounded stones, for a natural continuous streambed.

42
43 Chair Riley asked what the native substrate would be, as her studies indicated it would be silt and clay.
44 Mr. Vincent said that it is engineering practice, and that the silt and clay will naturally occur over time,
45 but in the immediate term, they need to protect the area from erosion.

46

1 Chair Riley requested for them to use a Northeast native erosion control seed mix as opposed to the seed
2 mix described in the packet. And she wondered if it is actually necessary to use a fertilizer. Mr. Vignale
3 said these conditions are acceptable.

4
5 Mr. Lacey asked if there is any vegetation being removed, and if so, whether or not they are replacing it?
6 For any trees and vegetation replacements, ConCom will ask for native plants and native wetland shrubs
7 in their comments to DES.

8
9 Ms. Hirai asked if anything was going to be done with the current dried-up slopes of the stream. Mr.
10 Vincent said his understanding is that the side slopes will be vegetated, to stabilize them, and that anything
11 they impact along the edges will be restored. They have tried to minimize grading as much as possible
12 for this project. The old stream bed will be left to allow for whatever grows naturally.

13
14 The reason the culvert is not higher than 4' is that there is a large sewer line that is there and cannot be
15 relocated, due to the cost of doing a major relocation.

16
17 They are not proposing any fencing, rather they will return the guardrail on the west side of the road.
18 They will recommend a guardrail on the east side of the road, by the far side of the sidewalk, with perhaps
19 shrubbery closer to the sidewalk. Mr. Vincent and Mr. Vignale think a guardrail is the AASHTO
20 (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standard; they will confirm either
21 way.

22
23 Chair Riley asked about the tree line; Mr. Vincent shared a map. Mr. Heistad said they do need to know
24 about any trees coming out. Mr. Vincent agreed to address this local request.

25
26 Mr. Vincent thinks that the Brickyard stream crossings were approved by DES, though he is not sure of
27 exactly what that entailed.

28
29 ***Chair Riley MOVED that the Conservation Commission recommend approval of the NHDES Wetland***
30 ***Major Impact Application for the replacement of a 60" Reinforced Concrete Pipe/Corrugated Metal***
31 ***Pipe with a 12' wide by 4' high open bottom box culvert. CC2026-01 – DES #2026---115 with the***
32 ***following conditions:***

33
34 ***1-We request that the project maintain more of the natural sinuosity in the stream, which would also***
35 ***reduce the permanent wetland and stream bed and bank impacts.***

36
37 ***2- We request that DES insure that the alternative design for the stream crossing is adequate for this***
38 ***location.***

39
40 ***3- We ask that all erosion control materials be wildlife friendly and that silt fences and other erosion***
41 ***control materials be removed when the project is completed.***

42
43 ***4- Require the use of Northeast native erosion control seed mix be used for the roadside. Also, we***
44 ***question the need for the fertilizer application that is specified in the seeding plan.***

45
46 ***5- Add wetland shrubs to the revegetation plan for the stream bank and the wetland.***

47
48 ***6- Generally, limit the removal of vegetation along the banks of the stream and the wetlands.***

1
2 **7- Minimize, if possible, the guardrail on the East side of the road.**

3
4 **8- Try to time the project during low flow conditions.**

5
6 **Seconded by Mr. Don Lacey**

7
8 ***The MOTION was approved (6-0)**

9
10 Ms. Hirai suggested that they involve the Hanover Street School about having their students get involved
11 in helping to rename this stream. Chair Riley will initiate contact with the District regarding this
12 initiative. Reusing the granite blocks might also be something the local school wants to pursue. This can
13 help all people learn more about the history here and also be part of a new history. The Heritage
14 Commission was also mentioned as an interested group for this naming project.

15
16 Chair Riley said this could also be an easy and informative field trip for local students.

17
18 **5. STUDY ITEMS:**

19
20 **A. Review of the Mascoma Lake Watershed Based Management Plan**

21
22 Mr. Mark Goodwin told ConCom about the New Hampshire SADES (Statewide Asset Data Exchange
23 System) program which is a municipal-scale information depository. They collect extensive information
24 on culverts and one can look at legends, the condition of these areas, aquatic organism passage if any, etc.

25
26 USGS Stream Stats is also an excellent resource as noted earlier.

27
28 Mr. Goodwin said that the levels on Mascoma Lake rarely drop, but they'll drain, so if we have low water
29 flows, they'll start to drain the lakes to the East, like Crystal Lake as an example. He said he's heard that
30 people who live on Mascoma Lake have put their foot down and said you are not going to impair our
31 ability to enjoy the water, right up to the edge of our grass.

32
33 Mr. Goodwin said that as he understands this Plan is less about a reaction to some water quality issues
34 and rather more about water quality issues that have been avoided, so that will be the focus. Mascoma
35 Lake has for the most part avoided many water quality issues in comparison to other nearby bodies of
36 water. Mascoma Lake has an active and engaged Lake Association. This includes checking canoes being
37 launched.

38
39 The graphics on pages 22 and 24 were referenced and help clarify understanding that the watershed load
40 is 94% phosphorus, leached from lawns (fertilizers), roads, fields, and elsewhere. It is a shared
41 responsibility to help keep our waters clean. 87% of the Mascoma Lake phosphorus load is coming in
42 from the watershed load. An additional 7% is coming from Crystal Lake's watershed. 2% of the
43 phosphorus load is coming from septic systems. Some of the numbers did not seem to tally.

44
45 Page 26 shows total phosphorus load by regions. Vice Chair James said that the levels are not that bad.
46 He said that if you control soil erosion, you control phosphorus. So, *erosion control is key.*

47
48 Ms. Hirai inquired if ConCom has the capacity to do anything based on these suggestions and this study.
49 Chair Riley thinks there are many action items that different parts in the City would be asked to

1 implement. The Executive Summary in the report states that this information is only as good as a
2 committee to implement the action items and tracking and developing best practices.

3
4 Vice Chair James said that one thing they can do is to encourage protection of riparian zones, both
5 through Zoning and their own decision making. Trees in riparian zones also have a positive and dramatic
6 effect. Forest vegetation helps too. He said sometimes landowners like to take out riparian zones for a
7 dock or a better view; education is imperative.

8
9 Mr. Goodwin said they have the rural bank protection district as a regulatory tool for Mascoma Lake; that
10 is one mechanism. Also, the Watershed Association uses a carrot approach to encourage desired
11 behaviors and outcomes.

12
13 He posed the idea that the Conservation Commission possibly take for example 6 action items and then
14 send out a mailer or flyer to Lebanon residents. The remaining ones could fall under DPW (e.g. less salt)
15 or perhaps zoning. *His concern is that no one takes responsibility and so it simply sits on a shelf.* Who is
16 going to be the person in Lebanon that takes responsibility? *The Conservation Commission could be the*
17 *reminder to The City Council or the City Manager to ask who is going to be working on these action*
18 *items.*

19
20 Mr. Lacey said that most projects like these need an enthusiastic point person who takes it and runs with
21 it. That is when these projects can be successful. He said this might come up in the presentation.

22
23 Chair Riley said that page 16 has a chart of the strategy along with specific recommendations for
24 Lebanon, Enfield, and Canaan. One issue noted is enforcement; DES asks for people to speak up.

25
26 Lebanon has a very small portion of the Mascoma Lake. Canaan has a majority of the lake, and then
27 Enfield. Canaan has no zoning, which affects many things in terms of clearing land, erosion control,
28 protecting riparian zones, etc. Shoreline Protection laws still apply to Canaan.

29
30 The City Council is meeting next Tuesday, and Chair Riley said she is curious to see what happens at that
31 time.

32
33 She was trying to locate some narrative about dirt roads but will locate it again later.

34
35 Mr. Goodwin complimented the Conservation Commission for their contribution to the property just
36 north of the lake, LeBron Meadow, which now has permanent protection as a direct result of ConCom
37 initiatives and funding. They have also been responsible for allowing natural vegetation to grow
38 uninterrupted there. This is the ultimate lake buffer.

40 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

41 A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)

42
43
44 Chair Riley said that two people (Lynn Fisher and Eric) have now completed their training but still need
45 to take exams, and then they will be Supervisors like Mr. Don Lacey. Mr. Lacey said that Lynn is already
46 thinking ahead about work on Tickner properties. Eric has been working at Goodwin for years and he
47 wants to continue with this. He wants to leverage that license to do more, including supervising non-
48 license holders as those opportunities arise. If these 2 had a team of 5 people, they could accomplish a lot.
49 Chair Riley said that Eric could benefit from seeing Mr. Lacey's record keeping.

50

1 This new team plans on making a spreadsheet listing all locations where they have worked on projects,
2 and then in turn share it with the Conservation Commission.

3

4 Mr. Lacey got his special permit again for Baker's Crossing and Mill Road.

5

6 Chair Riley said that if the vernal pool project moves forward, one goal was to have boots on the ground
7 and have this workshop outside. For staff (ideally) to see what a vernal pool looks like at different times
8 of the year. It is voluntary but they can get this messaging out and perhaps entice attendees with food.

9

10 B. Stewardship

11 -Ranger

12

13 Mr. Goodwin had the opportunity to socialize and meet with Ron B (former steward) and Ron
14 was asking about ConCom. He repeated for planners to leave their desks and get out on the land.

15

16 -Trail Coordinator

17

18 One exciting fact they spoke about was the fact that animals can save up to 40% of their energy by
19 following on another animal's trail or a path already in existence.

20

21 Chair Riley shared on Chris Johnson's behalf that the Ledyard Canoe Club reached out to him this week
22 to ask about holding Riverfest at Baker's Crossing again this year. The date will be Saturday,
23 April 18, 2026. ConCom members appreciated that this is the first time they have actually been asked in
24 advance. Chris will be the point person, and he wondered if there are any questions or anything pertinent
25 that ConCom has for the canoe club.

26

27 Parking has historically been an issue, so carpooling would make sense. Last year, many parked on Karen
28 Zooks' lawn (it is now fenced in). ConCom can make it clear that they should not park on any peoples'
29 lawns or private property. Parking at the Northern Rail Trail parking lot is ideal. It is typically just a
30 morning event. Cleaning up after themselves and removing any strings/debris is expected.

31

32 Mr. Lacey said that usually there is a student leader or two that takes responsibility for cleaning up after
33 themselves.

34

35 -Monitors and Stewards

36

37 Mr. Ernst Oidtmann had a question about the "kayak system", and if they have a ready-to-go system,
38 ready to rescue someone or something? The answer is yes. Hanover and Hartford come and train here and
39 our Fire Department would probably come and try to rescue someone.

40

41 C. Wild about Lebanon

42

43 D. Amphibian Crossings

44

45 Chair Riley has not heard back from the DPW Director, regarding the mobile digital signs. She is hopeful
46 that they can be deployed this year, for the anticipated amphibian crossings.

47

48 E. LUCT/Current Use

49

50 F. Other Subcommittees

51

1 **7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

2
3 **A. FYIs**

4
5 There is proposed State legislation to override Conservation Commissions proposing that the State take
6 loss funds or have a controlling hand into what these are used for, from local Conservation Commissions.
7 Chair Riley said it appears to be an effort to undo “optional powers”, to take away the ability of ConCom
8 to spend money without going to the City Council. This power given to ConCom was voted on by The
9 City Council. The Council approved ConCom, via a Public hearing approximately two years ago) to give
10 money (some open space trust fund money from Lost Funds) to the Land Trust, so that they could
11 purchase Martin Brook.

12
13 These attempted State actions appear to be in conflict with housing. Mr. Goodwin said ConCom has
14 optional powers and they control that Lost Fund money.

15
16 There was discussion about whether or not this proposal got any support. There will be a vote on
17 February 17, 2026. Chair Riley said that people are allowed to comment online.

18
19 Mr. Goodwin said that with the powers ConCom currently has, ConCom controls their Lost Fund monies
20 and they could spend a lot of money on, for example, someone conducting a butterfly inventory without
21 approval needed from anyone. But if they want to spend that money on a land acquisition project, and it is
22 land that is not coming to the City, the additional powers allow ConCom to spend that money for land
23 protection, again without outside approval.

24
25 This new proposal is an attempt to strip that and make it where any expenditure from the Lost Fund
26 would require the approval of City Council. As a result of the City Council giving them powers, they
27 have the authority to spend money for land protection projects that do not necessarily come back to the
28 City.

29
30 Chair Riley said she attended the meeting virtually, and it was incorrectly stated that the public is not
31 aware of what ConCom is doing, which is an inaccurate portrayal of the system, because ConCom had a
32 very well publicized public hearing, including in being announced in the newspaper, and the meeting was
33 well-attended.

34
35 Mr. Goodwin and Chair Riley agreed that it came across as these actions are in conflict with housing, but
36 they are not. Chair Riley sits on both ConCom as Chair, and as a member of the Housing Task Force, and
37 these members are working together well.

38
39 Some of the rationale is simply to have another party weigh in on this. Mr. Heistad added that this could
40 negatively impact people wanting to donate to this fund.

41
42 **B. Follow Up**

43
44 Chair Riley is also waiting to hear back from City staff regarding the Conservation Commission Lost
45 Fund.

46
47 **C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities**

48
49 Ms. Hirai commented on the excellent presentation about climate and food that Vice Chair Bruce James
50 recently gave.

51

1 Mr. Ernst Oidtmann attended the Planning Commission meeting last Monday in person, mostly to listen
2 to the preliminary presentation by Mr. Jay Campion and Engineer, Dan Nash, about the Labombard
3 property/Etna Road Development. His impression is that was a very complicated presentation regarding
4 more housing, sports fields, industrial developments, etc. He spoke up as a member of the public and
5 suggested that all pertinent City Commissions or Boards take part in a site walk, to sort out what is
6 actually there, what the slopes are like, what the drainage is, what the erosion might contact, including
7 erosion possibly from prior logging. Also to look at the new access road that was built (without clear
8 approval), and the soil concerns with excavation from the freeway. He also said that this project is close
9 to Signal Hill. After voicing this request and these concerns, he ended by suggesting that this land be put
10 into conservation and Mr. Campion said that he would contact the Upper Valley Land Trust about this.

11
12 Chair Riley also attended this same meeting via Zoom, as a resident, and she addressed some of her
13 concerns. One of her main concerns she voiced is that there are two roads that would cross wetlands (to
14 the East of Etna Road), and the other being regarding the general impact and that while the plan is to
15 dedicate these roads to the City, this is an expensive gift, since roads are very expensive to maintain, and
16 the City already has a limited budget for current roads. She likened this to being given a horse as a gift;
17 the recipient would then be required to maintain the expensive upkeep of the “gift”). She added that this
18 proposal was based on this area being changed from IND-L to GC-1, which for now is on hold by the
19 City Council.

20
21 **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None**

22
23 **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

24
25
26 **The meeting ended at 9:03PM.**

27
28 Respectfully submitted,
29 Cinda Mersel
30 Recording Secretary

31
32
33
34
35

DRAFT

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
April 9, 2026
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Riley (Chair), Bruce James (Vice Chair), Susan Almy (Alt.), Andrew Faunce, Barbara Hirai, Chris Johnson, Donald Lacey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ernst Oidtmann

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator) , Brian Vincent, City Engineer

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

2
3 A. Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

4
5 Chair Riley welcomed two future Conservation Commission members, both in attendance at today's
6 meeting, Mr. Erling Heistad and Ms. Pamela Lee.

7
8 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

9
10 A. March 12, 2026

11
12 *Vice Chair Bruce James MOVED to approve the minutes as amended*
13 *Seconded by Mr. Don Lacey*

14
15 **The MOTION was approved (6-0), 1 abstention*

16
17 **3. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

18
19 **4. PERMIT REVIEW:**

20 **A, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, I-89 Bridge , Lebanon, Right of Way (ROW)**

21 Review and Comment on NHDES Wetland Permit application (major impact) for rehabilitation of the
22 existing bridge. The permit was previously approved but expired in 2024; this permit application is to
23 permit the remaining construction. The improvements result in approximately 3,469 sq. ft. of wetland
24 impact, 2,846 sq. ft. of temporary impact and 623 sq. ft. of permanent impact. CC2026-03 (NHDES
25 number 2026-00517)

26
27 ConCom's charge is to review and comment on this Permit Review for the remaining work listed above.
28 There was no one from the DOT at the meeting.

29
30 Mr. Lacey asked if the conditions at this site have changed significantly at this site since 2018. Or have
31 any members been at this site and noticed any changes since then. Ms. Hirai has one concern, about

1 whether or not they are following their plan. She said that there have been times when they have seen
2 substantial runoff from their property onto the conservation land, and that the water flows right over the
3 roots of the sycamore tree there. Also, at one point there was fabric cloth (or something) placed over the
4 roots of the tree so that water could run over it faster, which was never a part of the plan nor should it
5 have ever been allowed. She spoke to the construction manager overseeing this project but did not see any
6 changes made. Chair Riley said this will be included in their comments to DES. She said she also wants
7 to know how they are draining the swales and what is going on with these.

8
9 Mr. Lacey added that over these past 8 years, there has been extensive scouring there, and this results in
10 changes to the bank there every year, at least to some degree. So, the conditions there are different now
11 than they were when this project was initiated. He thinks this would be worthwhile to look into this.

12
13 Mr. Goodwin brought up the NHDES application on the room screen, sharing pictures and that part of the
14 document that states what work they still need to do at this site.

15
16 Vice Chair James pointed out that any changes in impacts that may occur now may be related to work
17 they have done previously, such as the concrete piers. These would have had significant impact on the
18 shoreline, on the sediments underneath all of the submerged sediments, etc., and these would impact what
19 ConCom says about impact on this next phase. He thinks ConCom needs more detail.

20
21 ***Mr. Lacey MOVED to approve the following comments to DES:***

22
23 Regarding these three bulleted impacts yet to be completed:

- 24
- 25 • *Construction of the stone apron at the drainage pipe outlet on the upstream side of the bridge*
26 *(permanent impact area F);*
 - 27 • *Construction of the outlet for the vegetated swale on the downstream side of the bridge*
28 *(permanent impact area A);*
 - 29 • *Restoration of the bank impacted by the trestle and bulkheads (temporary impact areas B and D).*
- 30

31 The Lebanon Conservation Commission requests that DES ask the applicant to comment on how
32 conditions might have changed between the 2018 application and now and to determine if there are newer
33 or better BMPs that would be more appropriate today.

34
35 Furthermore, the Conservation Commission is concerned that the contractor drained water through the
36 abutting conservation land, past a leaning sycamore tree growing on the water's edge. Fabric and stakes
37 were put down on this property around the base of this tree without consultation with the Commission,
38 and some restoration of this abutting shoreline located just north/upstream of the bridge project might be
39 appropriate. Please have DOT speak to these off-site impacts.

40
41 Finally, the Lebanon Conservation Commission hopes that the pedestrian connectivity between the
42 northern and southern parcels of the Two Rivers Conservation Area will be restored and not impeded by
43 these stormwater drainage and treatment measures.

44
45 ***Seconded by Vice Chair James***

46
47 ****The MOTION was approved (7-0)***

48

1 **5. STUDY ITEMS:**

2
3 Chair Riley and others spoke about some of the changes to the City of Lebanon website. Focusing on
4 what one sees when you type in City of Lebanon, Conservation Commission, is a list of Commission
5 members and their terms. Included on this same page is Meeting Information, Overview, Information and
6 Categories, including 5 hyperlinks to meeting materials, the official code, Learn how to apply, Contact
7 the Conservation Commission and Visit the Conservation Commission in Action page. Much of the past
8 history about the Conservation Commission is missing. Govinity is in the background.

9
10 Mr. Faunce offered to discuss this with Chair Riley to see how they might productively understand this
11 new site and perhaps impact some changes. Understanding roles and who has responsibility for this site
12 will be useful.

13
14 Mr. Goodwin shared that normally when these types of changes occur, it is presented as a Beta, allowing
15 different impacted parties time to provide their input.

16
17 **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

18 A. Biodiversity Group (Invasives)

19
20 B. Stewardship
21 -Ranger

22
23
24 Mr. Neil Montibello, former City Ranger, will be returning to this role for 5-6 weeks this Spring until his
25 Grad school starts in June. Mr. Goodwin will advertise for this position so that they can get this filled in
26 the future.

27
28 -Trail Coordinator

29
30 Vice Chair James said that UVMBA reached out to him and they want to do a project trying to stabilize
31 the lakeside trail on the south side since it is always bad this time of year with lots of mud. He, along with
32 Mr. Goodwin, are working with Mr. Elliot Meese, a key representative of this group. They have given the
33 go ahead for UVMBA to proceed. They have equipment, funding, and people to help get this work done.
34 Their work has historically been very good.

35
36 Lynn Fisher is about to get her license.

37
38 -Monitors and Stewards

39
40 There will be a blueberry pruning day at Jackson Conservation area on Saturday, May 2, 2026, 9:00AM
41 to 12 noon. They already have 2 high energy volunteers, including Lynn Fisher, and another person; both
42 will be doing this work. There is a sign up form if anyone else wants to participate.

43
44 C. Wild about Lebanon

45
46 Chair Riley and Mr. Johnson are working on a Birding Wild About Lebanon event. Mr. Johnson has a
47 person in mind to lead this field birding event.

48
49 Chair Riley has also reached out to Jason Berard at the Land Trust about having a Wild About Lebanon
50 event at Martin Brook. They are also talking about having a site walk for employees, City Council, as
51 well as the Conservation Commission so that they can see what work has been done for the avigation

1 easement to see how they are handling obstructions (trees), which can be topped, girdled, or felled and
2 left on site to be deadwood.

3
4 D. Amphibian Crossings

5
6 There have been some big amphibian crossings this season.

7
8 DPW has been very helpful and they have put up static signs (donated by the Lions Club) on Heater Rd.
9 DPW has also installed solar powered digital signs at Old Pine Tree Cemetery Rd. Chair Riley suggested
10 that the sign verbiage be tweaked a bit to focus on alerting drivers that if it is a rainy night that they might
11 want to find an alternative route to their destination. If this is not an option, then “Caution!” would be
12 better than “Slow!” Amphibians typically cross on wet, cold nights.

13
14 Ms. Hirai suggested the signs be placed well in advance of the crossings which would allow drivers to
15 turn around and take an alternate route. Currently the signs are too close to the crossings. Mr. Goodwin
16 said this years goal is to get the messaging out via the signs as well as informative details in the Lebanon
17 Newsletters. Keene has been successful in having roads crossed, though that effort has not been
18 successful here in Lebanon.

19
20 E. LUCT/Current Use

21
22 Chair Riley is following up with the Finance Committee to ask for a more itemized statement, on a
23 regular basis (e.g., every 3 months).

24
25 F. Other Subcommittees

26
27 **7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

28
29 A. FYIs

30
31 The Tree Board is actively recruiting residents that want trees, and there is a form for interested property
32 owners to complete and send into the City. This is a time sensitive offer. Trees need to be visible and near
33 roads, ideally with pedestrian traffic. Their flyer was included in the March 12, 2026 Conservation
34 Commission Minutes.

35
36 Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Lebanon High School, from 10-12 noon, people can bring their solid/rigid
37 (non-bendable) Styrofoam (no peanuts) for recycling. Vice Chair James has volunteered to drive these to
38 the recycling compressor. They will be pelletized. All Styrofoam needs to be clean, with any tape
39 removed. Black Styrofoam is being accepted as well. Ms. Hirai will be serving refreshments at this
40 recycling event.

41
42 Mr. Johnson reminded ConCom that the River Fest/kayaking event is happening Saturday, April 25, 2026
43 at Baker’s Crossing. He is working with the Dartmouth students and will also be filming some of this
44 event.

45
46 B. Follow Up

47
48 Chair Riley spoke recently with Amy Allen, Superintendent of Schools for the Lebanon School District
49 (SAU 88) about the fact that there is an unnamed stream, and it could be a wonderful opportunity for
50 students to study a multi-dimensional topic, that could be interesting in terms of its history, watershed, the
51 science of this stream, whether it has or has ever had a name, etc. Another point of interest could be a

1 drainage area near Mount Lebanon School. Chair Riley has already heard from some teachers who are
2 interested in this project as well.

3
4 C. Workshops and Educational Opportunities

5
6 Ms. Hirai received information today about the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) and The Nature
7 Conservancy in New Hampshire and the Hanover Conservancy, collaborative effort at Mint Brook Nature
8 Preserve on Saturday, April 25, 2026, 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM. This event will include guided walks, nature
9 observation, and biodiversity documentation.

10
11 The goal is to document as many wild species as possible (between April 24-27) using the **iNaturalist**
12 **app**. To participate, one can download this app and then explore your own backyard or go to Mink Brook
13 Nature Preserve on April 25th, the day of the event, *or* visit other nature preserves in the area.

14
15 **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

16
17 Mr. Faunce suggested that in a future meeting they start a conversation about the needs and concerns of
18 ConCom and the implementation that the Planning Board allows, as well as the City Council, and how
19 they might improve upon the current process.

20
21 **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

22
23 ***Mr. Johnson MOVED for adjournment***
24 ***Seconded by Ms. Susan Almy***

25
26 ****The MOTION was approved (7-0)***

27
28 **The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.**

29
30 Respectfully submitted,
31 Cinda Mersel
32 Recording Secretary

33
34
35
36
37