



**LEBANON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
COMMISSION
MAY 19, 2026 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

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- 1. Call to Order**

The May 19, 2026, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission (DEI) Meeting is hereby called to order.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. April 21, 2026
 - 3. Old Business**
 - A. Welcoming Lebanon Task Force
 - B. Priorities and Goal Setting for 2026
 - C. Taste and Traditions - Lebanon's Multicultural Celebration
 - D. Farmers' Market table/ Community Engagement
 - 4. New Business**
 - A. Juneteenth Update
 - 5. Open to the Public**

Any member of the public who desires to speak on any item may do so when the item is taken up by the Commission and will be allowed to speak on the subject for not more than three minutes. (Note: Speakers are asked to state their name, ward of residence, and to use the microphone provided.)
 - 6. Future Agenda Items**
 - 7. Other Business: None**
 - 8. Adjournment**

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public who wish to attend remotely may do so by going to [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/live) where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupt virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodation, please contact the ADA coordinator at City Hall by calling 603-448-4220 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

DRAFT

CITY OF LEBANON
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION
April 21, 2026— 6:00pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kellen Appleton (City Council Representative); Lucas Mendelsohn (Public Representative); Keiselim Montas (Public Representative); Bise Wood Saint Eugene (Public Representative); Devin Wilkie (Vice-Chair); Tia Winter (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Ford Burley (Secretary); Karen Zook (City Council Alternate), Simone Whitecloud (Public Representative Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Andrew Hosmer

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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The April 21, 2026 meeting of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) was called to order by Chair Tia Winter at 6:00 pm.

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2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Minutes of March 17, 2026 meeting.

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A MOTION by Devin Wilkie that the DEI Commission approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting of the DEI Commission as amended.

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Seconded by Bise Wood Saint Eugene.

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**The Motion passed with 5-0 with one abstention (Tia Winter)*

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3. OLD BUSINESS

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A. New Member Introductions

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Kellen Appleton is a member of the City Council. Lucas Mendelsohn is Patron Services and Events Manager at Lebanon Opera House and sits on the Arts and Culture Commission as Vice Chair, and is a new member of the Welcoming Lebanon Task Force. He is also a Board Member of the Upper Valley Music Center and owns his own arts business.

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B. Welcoming Lebanon Task Force

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30 Vice Chair Devin Wilkie announced that the first meeting of the Welcoming Lebanon Task
31 Force will take place Thursday, April 30, 2026. The agenda will focus around goal setting and
32 scheduling. There are still some open seats on the Task Force. They expect to provide a report to
33 the City Council by the end of September.

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35 **C. Priorities and Goal Setting for 2026**

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37 Juneteenth Update: No new updates.

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39 Taste and Traditions: Lucas Mendelsohn announced that there is now an online form for vendors
40 and artist/performers to sign up.

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42 NEXUS Festival: Lucas Mendelsohn said that the Saturday morning opportunity is still on the
43 table, and that there will hopefully be sign-up forms available soon.

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45 Tabling at Farmers' Market: Vice-Chair Devin Wilkie said that they had not yet heard back from
46 the coordinator. Their understanding is that the first market is May 14. In the past, the
47 coordinator has said that the Commission was welcome to table there, so members should select
48 some dates that they are willing and able to attend. Lucas Mendelsohn reported that
49 confirmations are now out to vendors. He also noted that he will need to be in attendance some
50 of the days for other reasons and volunteered to do "double duty" if those are the days the DEI
51 Commission selects for tabling.

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53 "Govinity": City Manager Andrew Hosmer indicated that Govinity is still in its "rollout" phase.
54 Any hiccups should be smoothed out in the coming months.

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56 Community Engagement 411: Discussion was resumed after being tabled at the previous
57 meeting. Bise Wood Saint Eugene reported on UVEAR's challenges and successes. Discussion
58 also centered around the degree to which the DEI Commission could be helpful without
59 hampering their efforts. Keiselim Montas suggested that members of the Commission might
60 volunteer to be contacted with questions from newcomers to the area. Lucas Mendelsohn
61 suggested reaching out to Vital Communities. Bise Wood spoke about a UVEAR pilot project to
62 help understand what is needed in the community that will be completing soon. Chair Tia Winter
63 asked what a partnership with UVEAR or Vital Communities could look like. Lucas indicated
64 that there appear to be two distinct ideas being discussed: 1) connecting newcomers with or
65 listing resources including community groups who are doing important work, and 2) creating a
66 platform to connect new arrivals to established community members. Kellen Appleton pointed
67 out that Vital Communities is already running the Upper Valley Welcome Wagon. Lucas
68 suggested someone from the DEI Commission with Vital Communities to discuss what a
69 partnership could look like or entail. Bise Wood and Devin Wilkie will invite someone from
70 Vital Communities to an upcoming DEI Commission meeting. Lucas also added that there has
71 been an influx of people coming in and looking for support, and Lebanon Opera House would be
72 interested in who to call other than emergency services, e.g., shelter, support hotlines, etc.
73 Commission members should keep an ear to the ground and report back if they hear of any
74 resources.

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76 Legislative goals: City Manager Hosmer gave an update. He began by explaining that a bill
77 under consideration, HB1788-FN, “An act holding state contracts with DEI provisions to be void
78 as a matter of law and establishing a right of action for citizens where public entities or state
79 agencies engage with contracts with DEI provisions,” had been remanded to committee for
80 interim study and will not likely be passed this year. The City Manager then explained that the
81 City has entered into a contract with a named plaintiff in a federal case, Dr. Dottie Morse, of
82 Keene State College, to offer multiple trainings to the City over the coming year. Being a party
83 to the case, the contract and the City itself are both protected by a preliminary injunction and is
84 exempt from RSA 21-I:112, II.

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86 **4. NEW BUSINESS**

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88 No new business was discussed.

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90 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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92 Prior to opening public comment, City Manager Andrew Hosmer praised Chair Tia Winter as
93 running a meeting with “ruthless efficiency.”

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95 **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

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97 No other business was discussed.

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99 **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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101 Vice-Chair Devin Wilkie suggested that at the next meeting, Commission members should
102 confirm plans for Taste and Traditions. Devin also suggested the Commission finalize dates for
103 tabling at the farmers’ market.

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105 **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

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107 Keiselim Montas asked whether the Welcoming Lebanon Task Force should be reporting
108 regularly to the DEI Commission. Vice-Chair Devin Wilkie agreed it would be a good idea.

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110 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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112 Chair Tia Winter adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm.

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115 Respectfully submitted,

116 Richard Ford Burley, DEI Commission Secretary