

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 08, 2026 6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicole Ford Burley (Chair and City Historian), Matt Smith (Vice Chair), Brian Ware, Nicole Dittrich, Wes Achord (Planning Board Representative)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laurel Stavis (Alt. City Council Rep), Roxanne Benzel (alt)

STAFF PRESENT: Catheryn Hembree (Associate Planner, Planning Department), Rick Adams (City Custodian)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ford Burley called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Ms. Hembree reviewed the City's meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 11, 2026

Amendments Pg 2 Line 45: Edit to read “motion was made by Roxanne Bezel”
Pg 3 Line 22: Edit to read “members of Planning Department”

A MOTION was made by Brian Ware to approve the March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes as amended. The MOTION was seconded by Wes Achord.

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

3. PUBLIC REVIEW - None

4. STUDY ITEMS

A. Website Walkthrough

Chair Ford Burley and Ms. Hembree discussed the changes that were made to the Heritage Commission content for the updated website. The group noted that the website should include the resources related to Heritage Commission initiatives and information should be easily accessible to visitors. The group discussed the “Heritage Commission In Action” portion of the

site, which currently includes most of the information the group said they would like to be on the Heritage Commission landing page.

Ms. Hembree noted that feedback from the Commission members, citizens, and others might lead to another review by Staff of the arrangement of the information on the site.

Ms. Hembree said she could arrange a working session with the Commission and Staff to review the site content and to discuss ideas for presenting information on the site.

B. Landmark Properties

Chair Ford Burley asked if the group wanted to try a different approach to designating landmark properties this year: instead of having homeowners ask about designation, the Commission could select certain properties to possibly be designated as landmark. The group discussed this idea and discussed how some homeowners may not want to be included in a program.

The group also discussed recognizing landmarks that are not necessarily historic, as well as recognizing mid-century architecture and other architecturally significant structures as landmarks.

[At 6:33pm, Nicole Dittrich arrived at the meeting.]

Ms. Hembree confirmed that the City has three plaques left in stock. She explained that new plaques would have to be ordered from a different company than the one the City previously used (which went out of business). She said the cost of each plaque is close to \$500 at that company.

The members agreed to give the ideas some thought and come back to the next meeting with input that the group will discuss. Mr. Smith suggested each member review the list of properties that have been designated and see if there are neighborhoods that are not represented or are under-represented and that should be considered for historic designation. Chair Ford Burley suggested the following areas might be under-represented:

- East Wilder Rd
- Old West Lebanon (Maple Street / Highland Ave)
- South Main Street and Route 12 on the Plainfield town line

C. 250th Anniversary Update

Mr. Ware said the steering committee is continuing its efforts to plan events. He said they are soliciting other groups to join the events.

He gave an overview of the proposed events:

- July 2: After Farmers Market, local entertainers (hope to have young artists, perhaps from the UV Music Center) will perform, and then Front Porch concert series will be held.
- July 4:

- A parade is planned to start at 11:30am (after the road race that will take place earlier in the day).
- Noon: an opening blessing and then presentations by mayor/City Council members.
- 12 o'clock hour: a community sing-along of Patriotic songs.
- Around 1:30pm: The Flames (group) will perform.

Ms. Hembree suggested a Kidde Parade where kids can ride their decorated bicycles around Colburn Park.

D. Dana House and Soldiers Memorial Building Update

Ms. Hembree said if the Commission members wanted to see the inside of the Dana House, she and/or Mr. Adams could let them in to view it. Mr. Adams gave an update on the current physical shape of the Dana House building. Chair Ford Burley said the funds that were earmarked by the Historic Society for Dana House renovation are being reconsidered by the Society to be allocated for renovations to the Soldiers Memorial Building.

Mr. Adams said Ms. Rebecca Owens of the Planning Department said she received a quote of about \$27,500 to make the requested updates to the Soldiers Memorial Building. Ms. Hembree noted that figure does not include the proposed survey of the property, which she said might cost about \$3,000. Mr. Adams said the survey would be the first step in the process. The group discussed the accessible improvements that have been suggested for the building.

The group decided to have open house events at the Soldiers Memorial Building during the following Farmers Markets:

- July 2
- (one of these dates) Aug 6, 13, 20, 27
- (one of these dates) Sept 3, 10, 17, 24

Ms. Hembree suggested that the Guardian could give docent training to the Commission members and others who plan to host the open house events.

E. Public School Local History Curriculum and Engagement

Ms. Dittrich said she had a discussion with the Superintendent of SAU 88. She said she told her that the social studies curriculum has not been updated in many years because the state has not provided any guidance on it. She said the SAU 88 District is writing its own social studies and science curricula. She suggested this might be a good time to suggest local history content to be incorporated into the planned course of study. She said she plans to continue to try to meet with the superintendent.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Updates from Other Boards - None

Chair Ford Burley said that, at a May City Council meeting, a proposal for a memorial statue for Jim Vanier to be erected in the Lebanon Mall will be discussed. She noted that the Heritage Commission will be reviewing this proposal because the Lebanon Mall is within the Lebanon Historic District. The group discussed the what the City's policy for monuments is or should be.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ford Burley adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary