

FINAL

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 17, 2026 meeting.

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

Seconded by Bise Wood Saint Eugene.

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

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. New Member Introductions

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.

B. Welcoming Lebanon Task Force

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

C. Priorities and Goal Setting for 2026

Juneteenth Update: No new updates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

8. OTHER BUSINESS

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ford Burley, DEI Commission Secretary