

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
LEBANON SENIOR CENTER-10 CAMPBELL ST., LEBANON, NH  
Thursday, February 14, 2019  
7:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Harrison Bourne (Chair), Susan Almy, Erling Heistad, Albert Miltner, Donald Lacey, Sarah Riley, Suellen Balestra (Alt.)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ernst Oidtman, (Vice Chair)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark Goodwin, (GIS Coordinator)

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bourne called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.**  
Suellen Balestra was appointed in Ernst Oidtman's absence.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 10, 2019**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Albert Miltner to approve the January 10, 2019 Minutes. The MOTION was seconded by Sarah Riley.*

*\* The vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0-2). Two members abstained because they were not present at the meeting.*

**3. PERMIT REVIEW:**

A. DARTMOUTH HITCHCOCK MEDICAL CENTER-Review and Comment on NHDES Wetland Expedited Review (minimum impact only) application to replace a wooden boardwalk with a paved path with culverts crossing the waterway on lands located at 1 Medical Center Dr, Lebanon, Tax Map 10 Lot 8 CC#2019-02

The Commission received all pertinent documents related to the NHDES Wetland Application and Contract 12 CC#2019-02 prior to this meeting. All information was included in the agenda packet for this meeting. There were some minor modifications from the original documents that were previously submitted to the Commission.

Four people representing Dartmouth-Hitchcock spoke to the Commission. Kyle MacDonald, a wetlands scientist from Stoney Ridge Environmental, began the overview of the Wetland Application for the formal review. Dartmouth-Hitchcock is asking to replace the existing wooden boardwalk because there have been several incidences of pedestrians falling in recent years. The new walkway will be safer for the public. They believe it will be easier to maintain a paved walkway with a plow and it will require less salt which will benefit the wetlands. The new pathway will be a raised berm with a 3-sided box culvert for the surface water to pass through. The previously submitted design used a round culvert. The new walkway will impact 120 feet. The area used for walking will be 6 feet wide. The previous design would have impacted 500 feet of wetlands.

David Stiger, from Dartmouth-Hitchcock, said the walkway is primarily used by employees walking from lot 20 to the main hospital. They believe the berm design will freeze less than a bridge that is surrounded by cold air. The paving will eliminate the cracks in the boards where the salt drops through into the wetlands. They elaborated on the substrate design, the ground preparation they will use to establish the berm, and the rip rap that will be used to protect the lands during a big event.

The Commissioners discussed the water flows that go through the area and how the water runs to the storm water basin. Nick Fiore from Engineering Ventures spoke about the drainage on the land and how

the pathway was modeled to ensure the water would flow through the new culvert. They designed the culvert to accommodate 3 times the amount of water that currently passes along the ditch. The new structure will also permit water to move under the berm through a perforated pipe. This will help to keep the walkway from freezing and thawing which would cause it to heave.

The Consultants discussed the other pathway alternatives that Dartmouth-Hitchcock considered. They determined that if the same wooden walkway was rebuilt, the new footings and construction would be more detrimental to the wetlands and the vegetation. The berm alternative was the safest for pedestrians and is intended to have the least impact on the wetlands. Cincy Valcius from Stoney Ridge Environmental spoke to the DES criteria and the benefits of using this design over replacing the wooden bridge.

#### **ACTION:**

*Susan Almy MOVED that the Conservation Commission authorize the Chair to sign off on an expedited review for a NHDES Wetland Expedited Review minimum impact application to replace a wooden boardwalk with a paved path with culverts crossing the waterway on lands located at 1 Medical Center Dr., Lebanon, Tax Map 10 Lot 8 CC#2019-02.*

*The MOTION was seconded by Mr. Al Miltner.*

*\*The vote on the MOTION was approved (6-1).*

#### **4. STUDY ITEMS**

##### **A. INDIAN RIDGE AND GILE TRACT TRAIL EASEMENT CONVEYANCE DISCUSSION**

Bill Mlacak appeared on behalf of the Hanover Conservation Commission. He is also the Chair of the Hanover Trails Committee, a subcommittee of the Commission. The Commission has several easements for existing and well-maintained trails and land where potential trails could be developed. These reside within the City of Lebanon and are near other maintained trails that are within Lebanon. Hanover maintains 105 miles of trails and would like to focus their energy on trails within Hanover. They are requesting to transfer the deeds for easements of several trails and tracts of land to the City of Lebanon.

Lebanon has been approached by Hanover to take over these easements in previous years. This time Hanover has agreed to pay for the legal fees for developing the transfer of the easement deeds. They also suggested that this transfer could be an opportunity to change some of the restrictions on the easements. Brian Riordan, President of the Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association was present. His organization has been very active in rebuilding and maintaining many of the trails. They actively work to keep the trails improved for multi-purpose users. Mr. Riordan indicated that some of the areas being discussed are suitable for bikers, but other areas are currently restrictive for wheeled vehicles and bikes. The Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association will maintain all the trails. Some of the areas that are suitable for bikers restrict wheeled vehicles and bikes are prohibited. Mr. Riordan would like the language revised in the easements to allow bikes where it is appropriate.

The Commissioners discussed the opportunities and disadvantages of taking over these easements. They recognize that the trails are valued in the community. Many of the members of the community and visitors use the trails. The volunteers that participate in the trail maintenance projects develop a sense of ownership and responsibility. It is one way of getting the community involved in Lebanon affairs. The trails create public interest in conserving land for many different purposes.

There was a lengthy discussion about the propoasl. It was mentioned that Lebanon does not have a Trail Committee. The Conservation Commission is concerned with conserving the land and preserving it in

perpetuity. They allow multi-use in areas where it makes sense but providing trails is not the primary work of the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission has an unwritten policy that it does not maintain easements. They have transferred easements to other organizations, such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Each time an easement was transferred the legal fees were a substantial expense for the City and Lebanon had to pay an endowment to the Society to monitor the property. The Commissioners recommended that Hanover should approach other organizations such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests or the Upper Valley Land Trust. Mr. Mlacak responded that Hanover has other options regarding these trails and easements and will check elsewhere.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Conservation Lands Monitors**

Mr. Donald Lacey and Ms. Sarah Riley attended a Knotweed presentation put on by Jim Kennedy. They would have liked more panel interaction.

**B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group**

There is a new Wild About Lebanon ski and snow shoe event coming up on Saturday on the Rail Trail. They have already had one Wild About Lebanon event.

**C. Workshops & Educational Opportunities**

No new information.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Parks & Rec Spring Clean-up May 4th from 9am-noon

They are looking for volunteers to be at the tables for this event. It is the annual green up event. The Commission was not asked to co-sponsor it this year.

- Master Plan

There was an email from the City about the Master Plan. They want to improve the process for implementing the Master Plan. They would like a point person representing each chapter of the Master Plan. The members discussed that the new form is complex, and they would like to approach it as a team or a sub-committee of the commission. Or they will attribute a portion of each meeting to addressing the content and have a Staff member complete the complex form. The work will involve evaluating what has been accomplished from the previous year, what is left to do, what are the goals for the next year and what is the budget request to accomplish the goals.

- The Cemetery Board of Trustees is going to be talking about green burials. The Trust will be asked to consider creating hybrid cemeteries that have traditional burial sites and green burial sites. In other communities some green burials sites are on conservation land.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: No items were discussed.**

**8. OPEN TO PUBLIC: No members of the public spoke at this meeting.**

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Suellen Balestra to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.*

*Seconded by Mr. Donald Lacey.*

*\* The vote on the MOTION passed (6-0).*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary