

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers, City Hall
Thursday, September 12, 2019
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernst Oidtmann (Chair), Sarah Riley, Erling Heistad, Donald Lacey, Suellen Balestra (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Almy

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

GUESTS: Darla Bruno and Bruce James (Potential Commission Members)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

- Chair Oidtmann appointed Ms. Suellen Balestra as a regular Commission member for tonight's meeting in the absence of Ms. Susan Almy.
- The Commission welcomed two prospective members to the Commission: Ms. Darla Bruno and Mr. Bruce James.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 11, 2019

Amendments: Page 1, line 34: "but include a curb and" to "with no curb but will include"; Page 2, line 10: change "Corps" to "Army Corps of Engineers; Page 2, line 47: change "Brooks" to "Goodwin"

Mr. Erling Heistad MOVED to approve the July 11, 2019 Minutes as amended and presented in the September 12, 2019 agenda packet. Seconded by Mr. Donald Lacey.

**** The Vote on the MOTION passed (4-0). Ms. Suellen Balestra abstained because she was not present at this meeting.***

3. PERMIT REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

For the benefit of Ms. Bruno and Mr. James, and before continuing with the Study Items as listed below, Mr. Goodwin gave an overview of what the Conservation Commission does and described the key categories, responsibilities, and topics that are reviewed and discussed during meetings, noting that permit reviews are one of the core tasks: 90% of which are wetland permit reviews. He also explained the topics on the agenda, reviewed potential future Commission projects (e.g. Trails Committee, Amphibian Crossing, and invasive species, and exploring investment of the Conservation Commission Lost Funds), and the budget and financial resources of the Committee. Chair Oidtmann noted that the Commission serves as an Advisory Board.

The Commission also discussed their relationship and interactions with the Upper Valley Land Trust.

A. SCIMP Reporting (Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Master Plan):

Ms. Riley reminded the Commission that back in the spring, they were tasked with providing updates on Chapter 5 (Natural Resources Chapter) of the City's Master Plan. She created a spread sheet and this was last discussed at the April meeting, when she was not in attendance. Now is the time to start looking at it

again so the Commission can get this information out regarding their Actions and Strategies, which is to be done annually. She has not done any work on this since April, but will be meeting with either Mr. Goodwin or Ms. Rebecca Owens and suggested a couple Commission members might want to have a role in seeing what the Commission will be reporting on. She will share the link to her spread sheet again with the Commission for their review and comments.

Mr. Goodwin reviewed what SCIMP does.

B. Update on Landowner Outreach Letter:

Mr. Goodwin reported on the following, noting there has not been a large response:

- 150 letters were sent out to landowners. He created a spread sheet for tracking who the letters were sent to and reported on the responses received as follows:
 - 4 letters came back with invalid addresses.
 - 4/5 phone calls were received asking for clarification on this conservation opportunity.
 - A farm responded back and said they were already encumbered with an agriculture easement.
- The criteria used for distribution of the letters was described and copies of the Landowner Outreach Letter were distributed to the Commission.

Ms. Riley suggested this initiative be posted on the City's web site in order to share information about conservation easements, protecting land, and to provide a couple of links that would take residents to the Upper Valley Land Trust. The City's newsletter would also be a good resource to use for distribution of this information.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors (Various Members):

Ms. Balestra noted the Signal Hill trails seem to be in good shape, but a big tree needs to be removed from the parking lot. There were no ticks, but lots of butterflies and monarchs.

The Commission and Mr. Goodwin discussed mowing plans for City-owned land.

Chair Oidtmann reported on Farnum Hill and noted that someone was cleaning the trails with a leaf blower. This has now been terminated.

Ms. Riley walked the Alana Cole Trail and picked up minor amounts of trash. The Two Rivers Conservation area behind K-Mart has been in the social media news (Facebook) and informed the Commission what folks were talking about.

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group (D. Lacey):

Mr. Lacey received his special permits for herbicide applications on Mill Road and Bakers Crossing. He has done follow-up on the re-sprouts of Japanese Knotweed on Bakers Crossing. There is another Japanese Knotweed patch on the Mill parcel on the River. This year he has been doing a wet glove treatment for the smaller plants and explained this process to the Commission. He has also done some woody plants (i.e., Barberry and Glossy Buckthorn) and will do more as the weather gets colder. The Commission discussed the use of goats by the City, Purple Loosestrife, beetles, and the Hairy Willow-Herb.

Ms. Riley informed the Commission that Jumping Worms have been spotted in Lebanon. These worms are a very aggressive, invasive, and damaging nightcrawler that can damage/destroy the eco-forest system. She described what the Jumping Worms look like and she suggested that people do not share plants, mulch, and topsoil if these worms have been spotted in order to prevent their spread. It's time to activate the Biodiversity Newsletter on the City's website to get this information out to the public.

C. Workshops & Educational Opportunities (Various Members):

- September 20-27, 2019, Climate Strike Week.
- Sept. 27, 2019, Climate Strike Bike Ride in downtown Lebanon.
- September 13- 21, 2019, Spruce up for Lebanon and West Lebanon. Free pick-up and disposal of blue bags will be available at the Lebanon Rec. Office or at the Lebanon Recycling Center & Landfill. No charge for collection of litter.
- September 28, 2019, River Clean-up Day, meet at Riverside Park, 8:30 am,
- October 2019, Climate Change Academy: Interested community members can apply online before September 15, 2019. Provided by the Vital Communities and the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Resident letter regarding proposed wood burning plant.

The Commission discussed the letter above, which was included in the agenda packet for this meeting. Mr. Goodwin stated he was uncertain where Hanover stands with this wood burning plant but included the letter as an FYI for the Commission. While this is not under purview of the Commission, they had concerns over this proposed plants emissions, air quality over time, and potential damage to forests.

Ms. Bruno gave a brief review and explained the proposed plant to the Commission.

B. Con. Com. member agenda format preference.

The Commission discussed receiving their agenda and agenda items digitally. Mr. Goodwin noted each members preference after the Commission expressed both their positive and negative thoughts about receiving materials electronically. Documents will be mailed to those who request this option.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

8. OPEN TO PUBLIC: None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Erling Heistad MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Donald Lacey.

** The Vote on the MOTION passed unanimously (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted,
Dona E. Gibson
Recording Secretary