

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Council Chambers, City Hall
Thursday, April 11, 2019
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harrison Bourne (Chair), Ernst Oidtmann (Vice Chair), Erling Heistad (City Council Rep.), Susan Almy, Donald Lacey, and Suellen Balestra (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Albert Miltner and Sarah Riley

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bourne called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 14, 2019

Page 2, line 2, replace “packed” with “packet”; Page 3 lines 36, 38, and 39, change “Chapter 52” to “Chapter 5”. Several members expressed concern about the lack of any detail of the lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of using bows and arrows on Conservation Land vs. privately owned property. Mr. Goodwin expressed the need for enough documentation of discussion in the minutes to explain the action taken by the Commission.

Erling Heistad MOVED to approve the March 14, 2019 Minutes as amended and presented in the April 11, 2019 agenda packet.

Seconded by Ernst Oidtmann.

**** The Vote on the MOTION passed (3-0). Harrison Bourne, Suellen Balestra, and Susan Almy abstained.***

3. PERMIT REVIEW: None

4. NON PUBLIC SESSION

Suellen Balestra MOVED that the Lebanon Conservation Commission convene a non-public session under the terms of RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property.

Seconded by Erling Heistad.

Roll call vote with Harrison Bourne, Ernst Oidtmann, Erling Heistad, Susan Almy, Donald Lacey, and Suellen Balestra voting Aye and none voting Nay (6-0)

Commission entered non-public session at 7:16 pm.

Staff present at non-public session included Mark Goodwin.

5. STUDY ITEMS:

A. Master Plan Implementation Status Reporting – Draft Content Review

Mark Goodwin projected the status spreadsheet with the 15 items from Chapter 5 selected for review at the previous month’s meeting. Highlighting, comments by Sarah Riley to indicate the need for input.

Certain items were for immediate action while others would be ongoing. The members updated the spreadsheet to reflect changes of status or priority. A number of items were discussed and updated. Mr. Goodwin offered to complete the updates for commission approval. The members will receive an updated version of the spreadsheet.

Mr. Lacey commented about invasive species and previous interest in finding a way to map those areas. It would be a very big project. The wild chervil along I89 is one example. The idea is to contain it without eliminating it. Chair Bourne expressed the members' appreciation for Sarah Riley's work on the status update project.

B. Big Night-Salamander Crossing Project

This is Suzanne Church's project. The members noted that Keene and Hanover do it and thought it would be worthwhile. Councilor Heistad said it would need support from the parents of young children, and Chair Bourne suggested outreach to the elementary schools. Mark Goodwin displayed a map of local salamander crossings and noted other programs in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. He stated that the framework exists for a program. They have the crossing locations and status, and it could become an ongoing project. The crossings sometimes occur at 2 a.m. on a school night, which makes it unpredictable. The events depend on the light and temperature. Councilor Heistad suggested they could use the City website to generate interest. Mr. Goodwin shared a website for the Harris Center for Conservation Education, which has a Salamander Forecast. It actually indicated a high probability for this Friday night. The members agreed to look into the possibility.

C: Open space Plan Update

Mark Goodwin gave an overview of the Draft Plan, which explains the nature, importance, and need for open space. The draft includes graphics to illustrate the information. He noted that knowledge of open space is important, because the goal is to influence planning. The current trend to multi-family housing is good for open space as opposed to single family homes. City growth is projected to continue in favor of multi-family housing. However, landcover is still increasing. There is a need to plan to determine how much open space is needed. Mr. Goodwin referred to a report which suggests keeping 80% of New England a forest. That happens to align with Lebanon's goal and provides a benchmark. The 80% is working forest, and 20% is developed. Within the 80%, 20% is recommended to be protected. The City will need to plan and prioritize and is doing well being aligned with those recommendations. He added that the City is not there yet and still has room for development but could aspire to that goal. The draft includes updated maps. The final report will be available as a PDF.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors (Various Members):

Mark Goodwin reported that Ron Bailey passed his physical fitness test. He walked every trail to determine the condition before all the extremely windy weather, and will be out and about doing many different activities.

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group (D. Lacey): There is a garlic mustard project on the rail trail at marker 135 near one of the railroad bridges.

C. Workshops & Educational Opportunities (Various Members):

On April 22, Earth Day, there will be a program on the effects of climate change in the Upper Valley at the Senior Center at 6 p.m. with discussion groups on various topics.
Park & Rec's Clean Up Day is 26th.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting is Thursday, May 9th.

9. OPEN TO PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Erling Heistad **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Seconded by Ernst Oidtmann.

** The Vote on the MOTION passed unanimously (6-0).*

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Howes
Recording Secretary