

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
Thursday, June 11, 2020
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernst Oidtmann (Chair), Sarah Riley (Vice Chair), Erling Heistad, Christopher Johnson, Bruce James, Donald Lacey, Barbara Hirai (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Suellen Balestra, Susan Almy, Darla Bruno (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

- Mr. Mark Goodwin reviewed the meeting procedures for remote meetings and NH RSA 91-A “Right to Know” requirements. A Roll Call of Commission Members who participated remotely are listed above.
- Chair Oidtmann appointed Ms. Barbara Hirai as a regular Commission member for tonight’s meeting in the absence of Ms. Susan Almy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 14th, 2020

Mr. Heistad MOVED to approve the May 14th, 2020 Minutes as amended below and presented in the June 11th, 2020 agenda packet.

Seconded by Mr. James.

Amendments:

Page 2, Line 40, Change “valued” to “value”
Page 3, Line 27, Change “ben” to “been”
Page 3, Line 29, Change “they” to “the”
Page 4, Line 4, 7, and 10, Change “Loss” to “Lost”
Page 4, Line 23, Change “Miller” to “Mill”

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Bruce James, Christopher Johnson, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Barbara Hirai all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

** The Vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).*

3. PERMIT REVIEW:

A. NOVO NORDISK US BIO PRODUCTION, INC.: Review and comment on NHDES Wetland Standard Dredge and Fill Application (Minor Impact) for work on the Truck Depot and compressed

natural gas facility. Work will entail the construction of a precast concrete segmented block retaining wall, a truck depot station to park tractor trailers, and a CNG facility and associated equipment and piping. The project in review includes 5,540 sq. ft. of permanent impact and 790 sq. ft. of temporary impact, for a total of 6,330 sq. ft. of impact. **CC2020-06, No DES File Number**

Mr. Justin Alexander, Director of Facilities and Project Management for Novo Nordisk gave an overview of the company and what is manufactured at the West Lebanon site. Mr. Alexander explained that the company has come up with an environmental strategy to become a Circular for Zero company which means achieving a zero environmental impact by the year 2030. The application that the Conservation Commission would be reviewing is a critical piece in this strategy.

Mr. Rodrick Finley, Vice President and Director of Engineering Services with Pathways Consulting, LLC, explained that the project would be taking place up at the industrial park near the airport, partially on the 5 Tech and 9 Tech building sites. The project consists of construction of a precast concrete block retaining wall which will replace a failing retaining wall, a truck depot station to park 3 tractor trailers, and construction of a CNG facility along with associated equipment and piping. This facility sits in a location where there is a manmade wetland. This will create 5,540 square feet of permanent wetland disturbance and 790 square feet of temporary wetland disturbance. Mr. Finley explained that the compressed natural gas that will be coming in is renewable. Novo Nordisk will be receiving it from the Bethlehem, NH landfill.

Mr. Alexander explained that Liberty Utilities has developed this project with Bethlehem, NH. Novo Nordisk is one of three industrial users who will receive a large majority of this natural gas. Currently they use approximately 800,000 gallons of propane a year and with this project they will eliminate about 99% of that propane burn reducing the release of CO2 by 30 million pounds a year.

Questions were asked by various Conservation Committee members on the building site and environmental impact that it may make and were answered by Mr. Finley and Mr. Alexander. Ms. Hirai asked why the Lebanon Landfill was not being used to harvest the natural gas for this project? Mr. Alexander replied that was how Novo Nordisk had started with their investigation into this project. Liberty Utility is further behind with the development of this source. This is a possibility in the future. More discussion took place on this permit.

Mr. Heistad MOVED to recommend approval for NOVO NORDISK US BIO PRODUCTION, INC. NHDES Wetland Standard Dredge and Fill Application (Minor Impact) for work on the Truck Depot and compressed natural gas facility. Work will entail the construction of a precast concrete segmented block retaining wall, a truck depot station to park tractor trailers, and a CNG facility and associated equipment and piping. The project in review includes 5, 540 sq., ft. of permanent impact and 790 sq. ft. of temporary impact, for a total of 6,330 sq. ft of impact. CC2020-06 (No DES File Number yet) Seconded by Mr. James.

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtman, Christopher Johnson, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Bruce James, Barbara Hirai all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

*** The Vote on the MOTION passed (7-0).**

4. OTHER BUSINESS: Review and Comment to City Council:

A. Proposed disposition of 0 Foch Avenue (Tax Map 78, Lot 52) and adjacent right-of-way.

Discussion was had among the Conservation Commission members on 0 Foch Avenue. General opinion was that there was not much conservation value to that property. The Conservation Commission, by consensus, agreed that it is an acceptable option to dispose of this property by sale.

B. Proposed disposition of 0 Riverside Drive (Tax Map 111, Lot 3, Plot 100)

Discussion was had among the Conservation Commission members on 0 Riverside Drive. General opinion was that there was not much conservation value to that property. The Conservation Commission, by consensus, agreed that it is an acceptable option to dispose of this property by sale.

5. STUDY ITEMS:

- A. Resident Stewardship Volunteer Program:** Ms. Hirai spoke on the changes made to the flyer that has been created. Change to #2 was from a Trail Steward to Steward and broadened description to maintaining a trail or area. A change was also made to #4, Be a Mentor, and added that someone may want to give a talk as well as lead a walk. These changes were done, printed, laminated, and hung up in some kiosks on the trails.

Ms. Hirai has also gone through the volunteer list of individuals and some non-profit organizations. She has not started on the corporation list. She believes that it might be helpful to garner volunteers if the Conservation Commission had specific projects that could be offered up that the volunteers could choose from.

Discussion was had on speaking with Lebanon's Park and Recreation to see if they could assist in putting up some kiosks on the trails. There might be a possibility of trading work with them, such as their help putting up kiosks while the Conservation Commission may be able to help them with pulling invasive plants along their trails.

Discussion was also had about making and putting up more kiosks on the trails, creating and laminating more maps to add to the kiosks and trails, working on an easy report that people could fill out online that would let the Conservation Commission know what work or issues there are on the trails, and a bog bridge being built soon.

- B. Web Page Update:** Mr. Goodwin is waiting for a response from the City Web Designer who is currently swamped with other projects. Right now, he felt it was good to concentrate on the content that the Commission would like to include in the web page and layout could be dealt with later.

Discussion took place as to what the Commission members would like to have included on their webpage. Photos, maps, management plans, wetland information, invasive species information, and links to other web sites, were all talked about.

- C. Wild about Lebanon Program:** Chair Oidtmann is willing to lead a walk up Farnum Hill but with social distancing requirements in place this is on hold.

- D. ARM Fund Application Update:** The deadline was missed for the ARM Fund application process. Mr. Goodwin reached out to the Upper Valley Land Trust Fund to see if they would like

to partner with the Conservation Commission on conserving the property on Etna Road. They indicated that it might be premature to apply this year for that property. Information was given that the ARM Fund places a lot of value on property's aquatic resource value and that is not the value of the Etna Road property. The Land Trust indicated though, that they knew about 2 other properties that would make good candidates for the ARM Fund project.

Chair Oidtmann wanted an update on the current use property funds. Mr. Goodwin spoke with Ms. Vicki Lee, Finance Director of the City of Lebanon, and she was not aware that she was to report on the Lost Fund. She will work on getting a report on the balance of the Lost Fund to the Conservation Commission.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Conservation Lands Monitors:** Mr. Lacey mentioned that an 18" log was down across the road on Lebanon Wildlife Conservation Land by Trues Brook and wondered who to contact to get the log removed. Mr. Lacey said he has a contact with Fish and Wildlife, and he will call them to remove the log. Chair Oidtmann said all was good on Farnum Hill and Ms. Hirai said she and Vice Chair Riley walked Cole Hill which could use better signage. They also walked Chambers Park which needs some Buckthorn removed at the entrance.
- B. **Lebanon Biodiversity Group:** Mr. Lacey reported that he continues to do some invasive removal on Mill Road and at Baker's Crossing and some Garlic Mustard removal at Mile Marker 135.8 on the Rail Trail. Ms. Hirai and Vice Chair Riley spoke about continuing work on pulling Garlic Mustard on the Mascoma River Greenway and Ann Bouchard, a member of the public, has pulled a lot of Garlic Mustard off of the hillside on Mechanic Street across from Jake's Convenience Store. Vice Chair Riley spoke with Mark Morgan at the Lebanon Landfill and he is willing to take bags of Garlic Mustard for free. Lebanon Parks and Recreation has agreed to collect the bags from some centralized locations and take them to the Lebanon Landfill.
- C. **Workshops & Educational Opportunities:** None Discussed

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. James would like to know if the Conservation Commission could be alerted earlier to land use proposals from the Planning Board, especially where wetlands are concerned. He would like the Conservation Commission to be able to have more input at an earlier time frame in the planning of new projects.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

*Vice Chair Riley MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.
Seconded by Mr. Heistad.*

Roll Call Vote:

**Ernst Oidtmann, Christopher Johnson, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Barbara Hirai, Bruce James, Donald Lacey all voting Yea.
None voted Nay.**

** The Vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara R. Higgins
Recording Secretary