

FINAL

LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/Live)
Thursday, September 10th, 2020
6:30 PM

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 13th, 2020

Ms. Almy MOVED to approve the August 13th, 2020 Minutes as amended and presented in the September 10th, 2020 agenda packet.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

Amendments:

Page 2, Line 44, Change “Twin River Parks area” to “Two Rivers Conservation Area”

Page 3, Line 4, 9, and 14, Change “Tichenor” to Ticknor”

Page 3, Line 4, Add “s” to “Baker”

Page 3, Line 41, Change “residence” to “residents”

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy, Bruce James, and Chris Johnson all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

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

3. PERMIT REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

A. UVLSRPC Route 120 Project: Discussion took place on the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission’s plans for Route 120 and what impact it will have on land and energy

use in the community. Mr. James suggested that the Commission take a closer look at the project plan and how it may affect the area and as well as climate change.

B. Open Space Plan-Draft version review and comment: Mr. Goodwin explained the purpose of the Open Space Plan. He said it was really a planning document and that he had been speaking with Mr. David Brooks on how to launch the plan and who will be involved in reviewing the draft. He asked the Conservation Commission to review and comment on the draft and he is hoping the Planning Board will do that as well. He then hopes it will go to the City Council to review and formally adopt the Plan. He would like the Commission to look closely at the percentages of undeveloped versus developed land.

Ms. Almy thought that when considering the land amounts to be built on, the Plan should only consider the land that is developable, in the numbers. Ms. Hirai suggested that the Lebanon Open Space Trust Fund should be referenced as the Lost Fund from the beginning of the documents so that there is no confusion. She also believed that the Conservation Commission would need more support to accomplish all that was set on in the Plan that would be the Commission's responsibility. Vice Chair Riley asked if this was a guiding document like the Master Plan? Mr. Goodwin said it would be a guiding document for the Planning Board. Chair Oidtmann asked what the legal implications were surrounding the document? Mr. Goodwin answered that it was a regulatory document with no legal implications. All comments from the Commission on the Open Space Plan will be sent to Mr. Goodwin who will put them all together for review at the next Conservation Commission Meeting.

C. Camping Policy at Boston Lot: Currently the Conservation Commission allows 30 camping permits throughout the year for Boston Lot. Due to Covid-19, requests for the permits have been reached already. Mr. Goodwin asked the Commission if they would like to make a special exception this year and add permits or just leave it at 30 permits only and no more will be issued? Discussion was had among the Commission members on the pros and cons of adding more permits for the year.

Mr. Lacey MOVED that in view of exceptional circumstances caused by Covid-19, the Lebanon Conservation Commission extend 10 additional camping permits for this year only be approved. Seconded by Ms. Almy

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Bruce James, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy all voting Yea.

Christopher Johnson voted Nay.

** The Vote on the MOTION passed (6-1).*

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors

Mr. Goodwin told the Commission that DPW (Department of Public Works) went down to Two Rivers and mowed. That should make planting trees down there a little easier. Chair Oidtmann asked if there were any Elm trees that were going to be planted down there and if so when? Ms. Hirai said that she and Vice Chair Riley were going down to the property the next day and look around to see where the trees could be planted. The plantings may be put off for a while because of drought conditions. Chair Oidtmann mentioned that Farnum Hill trail had some trees taken down that were hanging over the trail. He was not sure who took care of that issue.

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group

Mr. Lacey reported that he re-treated Japanese Knotweed at the Ticknor Property which looked to be successful and he also re-treated the Baker's Crossing area which also looked successful. He said that this is an on-going, yearly process.

Mr. Goodwin mentioned that he had been told that there is a rare plant species at the West entrance of the Goodwin Conservation Area that is being pushed out by Japanese Knotweed. He wondered if this would be a good place to have volunteers do a special project clearing the Knotweed out in support of the rare plant.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Resident Stewardship Volunteer Program

Vice Chair Riley went over the Google forms that she, Ms. Hirai, and Mr. Goodwin have been working on. There are 3 forms, one is for volunteers to sign up to do work, one is to report work that has been done, and the last one is for the public to report any issues that they may come across. Mr. Goodwin is working with the City of Lebanon's technical people to get these forms online.

B. Web Page Update

Vice Chair Riley is very frustrated with how slow it is to get anything added or updated to the City of Lebanon's website. Mr. Goodwin said he will try to get the Google forms they have been working on to the Web person sometime next week and see how long it will take to get the forms up and running on the website.

C. Wild About Lebanon

The tours have been suspended until further notice. The Upper Valley Land Trust is working on a flyer to be mailed out to Lebanon residents telling them trails they could go out and hike on in the City.

D. LOST Fund Update

None

E. Intent to Cut Notice

Chair Oidtmann asked how the City of Lebanon received notice of intent to cut down trees? Mr. Goodwin said the Assessor's Office handles that. The Conservation Commission can request to get notified when an Intent to Cut is given to the City. A notice is also put up near the road where the trees are to be cut down. Mr. Goodwin spoke to the Assessor about the Conservation Commission being alerted to the cutting of trees and is waiting for a response from him.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Heistad MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Seconded by Ms. Almy.

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Susan Almy, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Chris Johnson, Bruce James, and Donald Lacey all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara R. Higgins
Recording Secretary