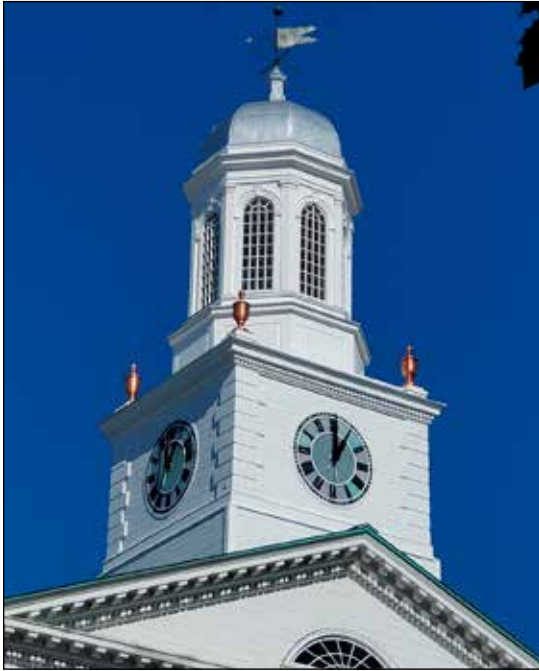


Introducing Lebanon's Heritage Commission



2021 photo of restored City Hall clock tower, including replaced finials

of the 1765 Dana House in West Lebanon. As described in the *Lebanon Times* Fall '22 issue, the Commission is seeking concepts to sustainably restore and program the Dana House. In between, and as detailed in Chapter 11 of Lebanon's Master Plan, there are many other preservation and education opportunities in Lebanon as well. For example, in past years, the Commission helped shepherd the installation of several public fountains (now under the Arts & Culture Commission) and members regularly provide input on City efforts like the recent analysis of restoration opportunities for the sculptures at the Soldiers Memorial Building and updates to City Hall and its clock tower.

One endeavor that members have taken to heart is evaluation of the Lebanon Historic Landmarks program. For a building to receive designation, it must possess historical, architectural, or cultural significance. There are 86 such landmarks in Lebanon, with 10 others pending review by the City Council. The Heritage Commission has been asking whether the owners of landmark properties are aware of their designation and brainstorming ways to create an 'emeritus' designation for structures gone by like the Westboro roundhouse.

The Commission intends to reach out directly to designation-holders and to complete updates to associated public engagement materials in the coming months. Landmark designations include the bestowal of a special plaque; on that note, members also hope to inventory historic markers in Lebanon to recommend some key updates. A potential starting point could be kiosks and interpretive signs in Westboro once redevelopment there breaks ground.

Members are also excited about an upcoming discussion with JAM (CATV) to explore the production of a video about Lebanon that addresses the native and indigenous people's history in Lebanon.



1923 blueprint of City Hall

Is this the type of work that sparks your interest? We encourage citizens to contact the Lebanon Planning and Development Department to learn more and potentially apply to the Commission. Heritage Commission members include the City Historian (who will soon be an author related to Lebanon's history!), people who have extensive travel to and personal appreciation of historic American places like Lebanon, leaders in inclusiveness and culture, an archaeologist, and individuals with degrees in history or related fields. That said, a common denominator is focus on the preservation of historic structures and how that can fit into Lebanon's economic development. ■

Rebecca Owens

Not to be confused with the equally eminent Lebanon Historical Society, Lebanon's Heritage Commission is a local land use board composed of five volunteer members. The Heritage Commission is established – as provided in NH State Law (RSA 674:44-a) and stated in City code – for the proper recognition, use, and protection of resources that are valued for their historic, cultural, aesthetic, or community significance. Members convene once a month for public meetings to review regulatory applications and special projects.

The Commission's role in conducting historic preservation review associated with the Zoning Ordinance is a requirement of the municipality's 2011 designation as a "Certified Local Government" (CLG). As a CLG, Lebanon is eligible for state and federal funding. The Commission has successfully overseen several CLG grant projects through the years, including a comprehensive survey of the Crafts Avenue neighborhood, a citywide survey to identify neighborhoods with potential for either historic district or "Neighborhood Character Zone" designation, a study and engagement plan for the water-powered mills of Lebanon, and most recently, an update to the Colburn Park National Register Historic District.

An ongoing focus of the Commission is oversight



4 South Park Street, a designated Lebanon Historic Landmark that has undergone two renovations supervised by the Heritage Commission

2023 City of Lebanon Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day
Monday, January 2

**Martin Luther King, Jr./
Civil Rights Day**
Monday, January 16

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 20

Memorial Day
Monday, May 29

Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4

Labor Day
Monday, September 4

Veterans' Day
Friday, November 10

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23

Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, November 24

Christmas
Friday, December 22
and Monday, December 2