

FINAL

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
20 WEST PARK STREET, LEBANON, NH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020
7:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Welsch (Chair), Mimi Hains (Vice Chair), Lindamae Peck, Rebecca Book, Gregory Schwarz (Planning Board Rep.), Raymond Book (Alt.), Linda Cole, Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Edward Ashe (City Historian and Alt.), Bruce Bronner (Alt. Council Rep.)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Welsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Owens presided over the election of officers for the Heritage Commission and explained this is an annual process and voting would be via paper ballot. Ms. Owens read the votes aloud.

Ms. Peck nominated Mr. Welsch as Chair of the Heritage Commission. (1 year term)

**The Vote on the nomination was approved (6-1).*

Chair Welsch nominated Ms. Hains as Vice Chair to the Heritage Commission. (1 year term)

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 11, 2019

Amendments:

Page 1: lines 32 and 33; change to read, "Ms. Peck suggested that she consult the Lebanon Historical Society's annual reports for information on specific properties."

A MOTION was made by Chair Welsch to approve the December 19, 2019 Minutes as amended above. There was no second.

**The MOTION was approved (6-0-1). Ms. Zook abstained.*

4. PUBLIC REVIEW: None

5. STUDY ITEMS:

A. DANA HOUSE WORKING GROUP

i. Capital Reserve Fund

Chair Welsch reported that the City Council has approved a Capital Reserve Fund for the Dana House. This will make it possible for work to start on the roof this Spring. DPW included a line item in their budget for the repair of the bulkhead, so that project will not require funds from the Capital Reserve. Ms. Owens stated that feedback from the LCHIP program suggests that a consultant-led interpretation study and solid programming plan will need to be outlined before grant money can be secured for physical improvements to Dana House. A clear record of work that has already been completed should also be included in future grant applications. This would help to illustrate the City's continued investment in the

Dana House. Chair Welsch requested, that in the future, the Commission be allowed to review grant applications before they are submitted. This would allow them to correct errors and add relevant information that may have been missed.

B. SPECIAL PROJECTS WORKING GROUP:

No report. Chair Welsch used this time to discuss the upcoming Black History Month Event.

C. FOUNTAIN WORKING GROUP:

i. Glenwood Cemetery Fountain

Ms. Peck reports that the Fountain Working Group is preparing for warmer weather and the presentation of the Fountain. A solar panel and conduit have been donated. In addition, a recycling pump, battery, timer and filter have been ordered. The pump is equipped with a sensor, and will shut itself off if the water level drops too low. A timer will be set to ensure that the Fountain does not run at night. All of the controls for the Fountain have been designed to fit into a single module, which will sit in an underground chamber. This module can be disconnected and removed, which will simplify the winterization process. There is some finish work needed on the concrete, which is temperature dependent and will be completed by volunteers this Spring. The Working Group is currently collaborating with DPW to design and create a functional fountain cover. The plan is to have this completed before the Fountain is formally turned over to the City. Originally, the plan was to recognize significant donors with bronze plaques. Ms. Peck reported that these are quite expensive, at \$700 to \$1,000 each, and would be subject to theft and/or vandalism when the Fountain is uncovered. Engraved granite blocks, which could be epoxied to the basin surround, are being considered instead. Ms. Owens suggested that laser-etched metal plates could be another alternative.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Quarterly Report to City Council (attached) The Report has been sent to City Council representatives and will be presented by Chair Welsch on April 15, 2020.

B. Education and Outreach- February- Black History Month

A Black History Month event is planned for February 22, 2020 at Kilton Library. Michelle Arnosky Sherburne, a journalist from Bradford, VT, has been invited to speak about her book, "Slavery and the Underground Railroad in New Hampshire". Ms. Sherburne was instrumental in the Historical Society's acquisition of the Wood Diary, which is referenced in the book. Her appearance at the Event requires a \$150 honorarium. Ms. Owens reported that the Library has offered to share this expense. Rashauna Johnson, an Associate Professor of History at Dartmouth College, has also been invited to speak at the event. Professor Johnson is the author of the award-winning book, "Slavery's Metropolis: Unfree Labor in New Orleans during the Age of Revolutions". Chair Welsch hopes to confirm her participation in the event this week. The Event is planned to run for approximately two-hours and tentatively includes: Chair Welsch speaking about 3 Underground Properties in Lebanon; Ms. Hanchett presenting her research on Thomas Pennick; authors Michelle Sherburne and Professor Johnson; and the City's Diversity Intern, who will speak to her recent work with high school students. Ms. Zook suggested including a Panel Q&A at the end, rather than stopping for questions between each Speaker. Ms. Owens recognized Celeste Pfeiffer, Librarian, for helping with outreach for this event. Chair Welsch proposed allocating \$75 for Ms. Sherburne's honorarium, \$200 for Professor Johnson, and \$50 for refreshments.

A MOTION by Ms. Book to approve the allocation of \$325 for the Black History Event on February 22, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Hains. * The MOTION was approved (7-0).

The list of speakers will be finalized by Friday, February 14th. A flyer will be sent to the Valley News and ListServ.

C. CLG 2020 application

Ms. Owens reported that at least one consultant quote is now required prior to submitting a proposal. The consultant reached out to the Division of Historical Resources and gained valuable insight as to the scope of work they are looking for in a grant proposal. This application would cover the first-phase of a two-part project. The initial phase would involve updating the descriptions for all twenty-one of the Colburn Park Historic District structures to current National Park Service standards. The Historic District was originally approved in 1986. In addition, there are five structures that are now eligible to be added as contributing members to the Historic District, meaning that they are at least fifty years old. These are the Fire Station, the Mascoma Bank building, Post Office, Lucky's Garage, and the Park Bandstand. This will require significant research and photographs. One possible application for this information would be the creation of a "cheat sheet" for land use decision makers, such as the Planning Board. This would include defining characteristics for each property, and could be used as a reference for design and character. The estimated project cost is \$21, 946 and the City Manager has signed off on the grant request.

D. Arts & Culture Commission- 501(c)(3) collaboration

Ms. Hains spoke with an attorney, Pat Hayes, re: the creation of a 501(c)(3). From this conversation, it seems as if \$500 will not be sufficient to cover the legal costs involved. In addition, it will require a large investment of time to accomplish. Ms. Hains stated that the next step should be to contact the City Attorneys, who can answer the ethical questions surrounding the creation of a 501(c)(3). Ms. Peck suggested identifying potential donors to cover the legal fees for this project. Chair Welsch asked that a solid estimate for this project be obtained from an attorney before potential donors are contacted.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- i. West Lebanon Historic District

9. ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION was made by Ms. Hains to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Seconded by Ms. Cole.

** The Vote on the MOTION was unanimous in favor, (7-0).*

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Castillo
Recording Secretary