



New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development

DRAFT MINUTES – January 11, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Joseph Doiron, Designee, Department of Business and Economic Affairs, Chair
- John Martin, Designee, NH Department of Health and Human Services
- Mark Doyle, Designee, Department of Safety
- Shawn Jasper, Designee, Department of Agriculture
- Jared Nylund, Designee, NH Department of Administrative Services
- Patrick Hackley, Designee, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
- Shawn Jasper, Designee, Department of Agriculture
- Stephen LaBonte, Designee, NH Department of Transportation
- Jack Ruderman, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority
- Betsey McNaughten, Designee, NH Fish & Game

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Amy Clark, Designee, Department of Education

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- Stephanie N. Verdile, NH Office of Planning and Development (CORD Staff)
- Ken Gallager, NH Office of Planning and Development
- Allen Brooks, CORD Attorney, Attorney General’s Office
- Steve Walker, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
- Charlotte Harding, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
- Ben Engle, Land Conservation Specialist, NH Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
- Timothy J. McNamara, Mayor of Lebanon, NH
- Shaun Mulholland, City Manager, Lebanon NH

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened at 3:00 P.M. by Chair Doiron.

MINUTES

A. Approval of December 14, 2023, draft minutes

Draft December 14, 2023, minutes were reviewed, no changes were made.

MOTION: *On a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Jasper, the December 14, 2023, minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote in favor.*

51 **I. LAND & COMMUNITY HERITAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCHIP)**

52
53 **A. Ben Engel, Land Conservation Specialist, NH Land & Community Heritage**
54 **Investment Program (LCHIP). Request for distribution of Community**
55 **Conservation Endowment monitoring funds.**
56

57 Mr. Engel introduced himself and presented the details of the request for CORD to approve the
58 annual distribution request from the Community Conservation Endowment fund in the amount of
59 \$227,043.00 including up to \$168,325.00 for awarding Stewardships Grants and \$58,718.00 for
60 supporting LCHIP annual monitoring and stewardship programs.

61
62 **MOTION** made by Mr. Jasper, duly seconded by Mr. Doyle: to approve the annual distribution
63 request from the Community Conservation Endowment fund in the amount of \$227,043.00
64 including up to \$168,325.00 for awarding Stewardships Grants and \$58,718.00 for supporting
65 LCHIP annual monitoring and stewardship programs. Motion passed by a unanimous vote in
66 favor.
67

68
69 **II. LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCIP)**

70
71 **A. Steve Walker, Director Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP)**
72 **review and request re-authorization of Memorandum of Agreements (MOA)**
73 **for the Land Conservation Endowment (LCE) monitoring program.**
74

75 Mr. Walker introduced himself and Charlotte Harding and spoke about the custodial agreement
76 that requires renewal with the State Treasury. He noted CORD is a signatory and due to some
77 recent personnel changes, the agreement will need to be resigned, which is something that
78 needs to be worked out between CORD and the Treasury.

79 After a brief discussion on how to proceed, it was determined that Ms. Verdile, with the help
80 from Mr. Walker and Ms. Harding, will work on updating the signatures on the Custodial
81 Agreement.
82

83 Then Mr. Walker informed members of CORD about the CLSP funding sources and said that
84 one of them will end at the end of this year, which means that the program will lack \$34,000 in
85 funding each year.
86

87 Then Mr. Walker spoke about the Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement with various
88 agencies that allow additions to the Land Conservation Endowment for properties that are being
89 added for stewardship. The ones in particular Mr. Walker mentioned were:
90

- 91 a. NH Fish and Game – Expired 6/30/2023
 - 92 b. NH-DNCR – Expires 6/30/2024
 - 93 c. NH-DOJ – Expires 6/30/2024
 - 94 d. NH-DAMF – None exists
- 95

96 After a question from Ms. McNaughten, Mr. Walker clarified that DNCR received a legal opinion
97 that by having these MOA's approved by Governor & Council (G&C), an agency does NOT have
98 to return to G&C each time a new contribution comes in. He noted it would be good if this was
99 memorialized somehow so that CLSP could have it for their files.
100

101 There was a brief discussion about the Land Conservation Endowment and all the parties
102 involved in managing it and handling interest payments.

103
104 **MOTION** made by Mr. Jasper, duly seconded by Ms. McNaughten, to approve the authorization
105 of Memorandum of Agreements for the Land Conservation Endowment Monitoring Program for
106 finalization and approval for the March CORD meeting. Motion carried by a unanimous vote in
107 favor.

108
109 Mr. Walker also said CLSP is now two and a half years old and the vehicle it uses has been
110 inherited by the program and is rather old and possibly needs to be replaced.

111
112 Chair Doiron noted this is a matter that would need to be addressed with staff first. He
113 suggested to put it on the March 7th CORD meeting agenda.

114
115 **SURPLUS LAND REVIEW**

116
117 **A. SLR 2024-001 Lebanon - NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT)**
118 **proposes to sell four parcels of land for a total of 8.45 acres to the City of**
119 **Lebanon, an abutter, for river buffer and recreation purposes per RSA**
120 **228:57. The property is known as the Westboro Rail Yard located along the**
121 **Connecticut River in the City of Lebanon.**

122
123 Chair Doiron asked Mr. LaBonte to speak about details of the application. Mr. LaBonte noted he
124 did not have much exposure to the sale and someone else from his agency was supposed to
125 present this application to CORD. He said he will abstain from further discussion and voting on
126 that application.

127
128 Chair Doiron read the proposal into the record which is from the NH Department of
129 Transportation (NHDOT) proposing to sell four parcels of land for a total of 8.45 acres to the
130 City of Lebanon, an abutter, for river buffer and recreation purposes per RSA 228:57. The
131 property is known as the Westboro Rail Yard located along the Connecticut River in the City of
132 Lebanon.

133
134 Ms. Verdile added there were comments from various stakeholders that were submitted to
135 CORD members for review in the packet.

136
137 Shaun Mulholland, City Manager, Lebanon NH, answered questions from CORD. He spoke
138 about the project which has been in the process for over 20 years and is done in cooperation
139 with NHDOT as a partner. He also mentioned a planned bridge replacement on 12-A and the
140 new access road to the new park area. That access road will be shared with NHDOT to the area
141 that they will be leasing for economic development purposes. He said that the new park will be a
142 green space and a place for people to play frisbee and walk their dogs. There is a trail along the
143 edge of the river that goes along with that and there will be a parking area that will be
144 constructed as part of that. Mr. Mulholland continued to say there is quite a bit of contamination
145 on the site, so a membrane will have to be put down before doing the work that needs to be
146 done there. He said there are PFAs chemicals in the soil from the previous railroad activities
147 from years ago. Mr. Mulholland discussed how this project will tie into the existing rail trail
148 corridor that goes all the way down to Concord, Salem and then to Vermont. It is going to tie into
149 the entire system with building all the pieces of that, thanks to the help of the state and NHDOT
150 over the years. Mr. Mulholland concluded that the final design is already done and paid for.

151

152 Ms. Verdile noted there were comments received from the Upper Valley Lakes Regional
153 Planning Commission expressing support for the project. She also noted there were comments
154 from the Lebanon City Manager with some clarifications on the application and some questions
155 about the actual land size (8.47 acres), whether some parcels has been transferred already,
156 and some questions on the plans. Ms. Verdile suggested if a motion is made, it should include
157 language that NHDOT should get the get the comments from the City to make sure that any
158 issues are addressed before anything proceeds forward.

159
160 Mr. Doiron checked with Attorney Brooks on the possible language for the motion regarding
161 land size and Mr. Brooks suggested using “approximately 8.47 acres.”
162

163 **MOTION** made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Jasper: to recommend approval of the sale of
164 land, known as the Westboro Rail Yard along the Connecticut River, for a total of approximately
165 8.47 acres to the City of Lebanon for river buffer and recreation purposes. Motion carried with all
166 voting yes, but Mr. LaBonte, who abstained.
167

168
169 **B. SLR 2024-002 Antrim/Bennington-NH Department of Natural and Cultural**
170 **Resources (DNCR)-Requests an amendment of an existing easement with**
171 **the Towns of Antrim and Bennington. The expansion is to install a new**
172 **water line under an existing rail trail to a new water filter facility and**
173 **improve access to the facility. The expansion would become part of the**
174 **permanent easement. The property is located off Balch Farm Road in**
175 **Bennington.**
176

177 Mr. Hackley presented the details of the DNCR application seeking CORD approval to grant an
178 amendment expanding the area of an existing easement involving the towns of Antrim and
179 Benington. Both towns have requested additional rights to cross under the existing trail to a new
180 water filter facility in order to improve access to the said facility. The attached amended
181 easement would grant both municipalities the rights they have deemed necessary to connect
182 the well to the water filter facility and expand an existing easement. Mr. Hackley noted it has all
183 been approved by the DOJ.
184

185 **MOTION** made by Ms. McNaughten, seconded by Mr. Jasper: to recommend
186 the amendment of an existing easement with the Towns of Antrim and Bennington in order to
187 install a new water line under an existing rail trail to a new water filter facility and improve
188 access to the facility. The expansion would become part of the permanent easement. Motion
189 carried with all voting yes, but Mr. Hackley, who abstained.
190

191
192 **OTHER BUSINESS**
193

194 **Ken Gallagher, Principal Planner, Office of Planning and Development (OPD) – update on**
195 **the Federal Board of Geographic Names action on Mt. Washington renaming proposal.**
196

197 Mr. Gallagher thanked CORD members and their respective agencies for providing comments on
198 the noted proposal and said the Board of Geographic Names just voted to reject the proposal to
199 rename Mt. Washington by a vote of 18:0 with two abstentions.
200

201 Mr. Gallagher briefly answered questions from CORD on other proposal that was discussed
202 (Baker River) and the rationale for rejecting the Mt. Washington one. He also updated the

203 CORD members about a project going on right now at the federal level to come up with policies
204 on dealing with derogatory and offensive names. Mr. Gallagher also noted he will forward another
205 proposal to CORD under the offensive name change umbrella for some smaller water bodies in
206 NH which may make it onto the March 7th agenda.

207

208 **A. Next Meeting: March 7, 2024, from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. Deadline for SLR applications is**
209 **February 2, 2024.**

210

211

212 ***MOTION:*** *After a motion by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Ms. McNaughten, and a unanimous vote*
213 *in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM.*

DRAFT