



Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Conservation and Agriculture Commission Charge:

To advocate for conservation and agricultural issues before non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions and residents; recommend lands for preservation; provide information and guidance on protecting natural resources and agricultural viability; increase awareness and promote the value of natural resources and agriculture; and serve as conduit between local farmers, government and non-farmers.

Did you know you can donate to the "Town of Lebanon Open Space Account"

Fall 2021
Volume XI

Conservation & Agriculture Commission Activities

The Conservation and Agriculture Commission works to fulfill its charge to work on land preservation projects and advise Town boards, commissions, and residents on conservation and agricultural issues.

The Commission partners with State and Federal agencies and non-profits to meet landowner needs.

In 2021, the 54-acre Williams Farm on Mack Road was preserved, and the 94-acre Dearborn Farm on Exeter Road should close by year's end.

Some farmland preservation projects in the works include two farms (totaling 165-acres) on Village Hill Road, 107-acres on Cook Hill Road, and 32-acres on North Street.

The Commission maintains town trails at Commons Hill and Five Mile Rock, and monitors several town-held conservation easements.

We advocate for property owners looking to preserve their land and are available as a resource on matters of protecting Lebanon's rich natural resources and preserving Lebanon's agricultural heritage!

Williams Farm

MACK ROAD: In 2019, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture asked the town to assist in preserving the 54-acre Williams Farm on Mack Road.

The town conducted property appraisals and a survey, and the State in partnership with the USDA-NRCS funded the preservation of this farm in September.



Williams Farm, Mack Road

Spotted Lanternfly: Stomp it out!

According to the USDA: *The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that is putting American agriculture and forests at risk.*

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive planthopper native to Asia. It feeds on sap from plants, causing it stress and even death.

First detected in the US in PA in 2014, and in lower Fairfield and New

Haven Counties in 2020, the spotted lanternfly can impact grapevines, fruit trees, plant nursery, and timber industries which contribute billions of dollars annually to Connecticut's economy and quality of life.

If you see the spotted lanternfly, take a picture, stomp it out, and email the CT Ag. Experiment Station at ReportSLF@ct.gov.



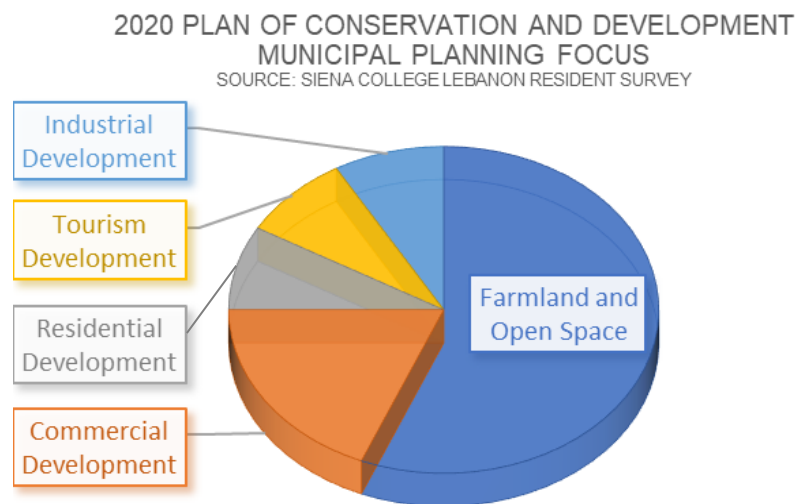
Spotted Lanternfly

Planning & Zoning Commission: 2020 Plan of Conservation & Development

Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) requires each town to complete a Plan of Conservation and Development ("POCD") every 10 years in order to be eligible for discretionary State funds, i.e., grants. Preparation of Lebanon's Plan of Conservation and Development is delegated to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The 2020 POCD is Lebanon's master plan for public and private conservation and development efforts. In addition to identifying town land use goals, the POCD identifies land use and municipal service trends and makes recommendations for land conservation and development. CGS Sec. 8-23e(1) states that the *"plan of conservation and development is a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality"*. Therefore, the goals and recommendations identified in the POCD are the policies of the town. All town Boards and Commissions are expected to read and follow the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Planning and Zoning Commission spent two years preparing the 2020 POCD, meeting with town boards, commissions, and staff. It established Subcommittees made up of town boards and commissions; engaged experts in the fields of agriculture and finance; conducted a cost-of-community services study and a statistically-valid resident survey (prepared by Siena College); and held public hearings to gain resident input. The result is a Plan of Conservation and Development that identifies goals and action steps to help strengthen and sustain Lebanon's desirable small town, historic, and agricultural rural character.



Goals articulated in Lebanon's 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development are to:

- Preserve, promote, and enhance Lebanon's historical and agricultural roots;
- Strengthen the quality and diversity of Lebanon's housing stock by increasing opportunities for multi-and-senior housing for all age groups to create a sustainable population mix of age and income groups;
- Future development should be scaled and designed to mirror and enhance the town's rural village character and sense of place;
- Market the town as the historically significant, education rich, affordable, safe, agricultural friendly, and abundant in natural resource community that it is;
- Encourage agricultural land use by promoting agriculture-based economic development opportunities and farmland preservation;
- Provide and fund community facilities and services necessary to meet current and future resident needs;
- Promote heritage tourism through identification and advertisement of available resources and attractions and by increasing visitor accommodations and services;
- Provide for permanent protection of open space tracts and corridors, giving priority to those that are most important to the community and hold important natural resources;
- Promote integrated business and residential development in the Town Center to meet the needs of residents;
- Promote commercial, industrial, and residential development in designated areas; and
- Encourage business and housing development proposals that meet the physical, social, economic, and environmental needs of the community, including rezoning when warranted.

The 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development is available online at www.lebanonct.gov and in the Jonathan Trumbull Library. It is also for sale in the Town Clerk's Office.

Lebanon and Agriculture: UPDATE

For 300 years AGRICULTURE has been Lebanon's predominant land use! Today, roughly 140 agricultural operations comprising 8,000+ acres of farmland continue to provide food and fiber necessary to support the masses -- just as it did at the time of our nation's founding! Lebanon farms represent small-and-large scale agriculture and include dairy, poultry, beef cattle, equine, vegetables, nursery stock, llama, sheep, maple syrup, honey, wine, and hemp operations. In addition, there are corn and hay lots that support agricultural businesses in town and region.

Lebanon is one of the largest farming communities in Connecticut and has the greatest amount of preserved farmland of any town in **New England**. Roughly 6,000 acres of farmland is preserved in our community, which represents 1 out of every 8 acres of preserved farmland in our State! These prime and important farmland soils are preserved forever.

Why preserve farmland and open space? Studies show that agricultural and open space pay more than their fair share in local taxes and help offset the cost of municipal services for residential property owners. Studies also show that the less developed or more rural a community, the lower its taxes, as people, not cows (or crops) require municipal services. *Lastly, farmland preservation, agriculture, and open space are considered synonymous in Lebanon and help maintain the varied scenic vistas, landscapes, and tranquil quality of life residents enjoy!*

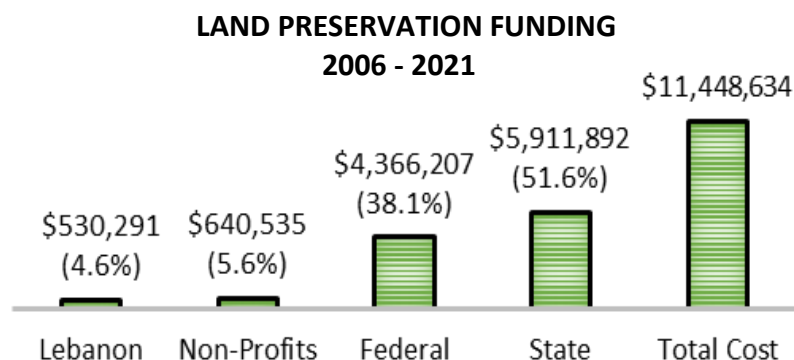
Lebanon's OPEN SPACES AND LAND PRESERVATION FUNDING

OPEN SPACE: In addition to roughly 6,000 acres of preserved farmland, Lebanon has 15 miles of gravel roads good for walking and over 3,000 acres of pristine open space where residents enjoy walking, hiking, bird watching, biking, horseback riding, boating, fishing, and hunting. Major open spaces include the following locations which are also shown on the QR map link.



- [Airline Trail State Park](#) (8 mi.). Trailheads with limited parking on Lebanon St. in Hebron, Leonards Bridge Road, Chesbro Bridge Road, Trumbull Hwy at Columbia town line, Cook Hill Road, Village Hill Road, and Kingsley Road.
- [Bartlett Brook Wildlife Management Area](#) (730 ac.). Access from Lebanon Avenue and Goshen Hill Road.
- [Commons Hill Trail](#). Parking at Schalk Cemetery on Trumbull Highway. 2.5 mile round-trip hike.
- [CT Forest and Park Association](#) (85 ac.). Whitney Forest. Parking off Oliver Road. 1.5-mile trail loop.
- [Five-Mile Rock Trail](#). Parking along side Randall Road. 1-mile round-trip trail to historic rock.
- [Lebanon Town Green](#). Parking on Trumbull Hwy. in public lot across from Green. 1.5 mile stone dust loop path.
- [Lake Williams State Park](#) (176 ac.). Access from Exeter Road. Non-motorized boating, hiking, fishing.
- [Mooween State Park](#) (577 ac.). Access from Camp Mooween & Scott Hill Roads. Non-motorized boats, hunt, hike.
- [Pease Brook Wildlife Management Area](#) (207 ac.). Parking lot off Horiska Road. Trails, hunting.
- [Pigeon Swamp Preserve](#) (136 ac.). Parking lot off Pigeon Swamp Road in Windham. Trails.
- [Pomeroy State Park](#) (200 ac.). Limited parking on Beaumont Highway. Hunting.
- [Savin Lake](#) (80 ac.). Parking lot off Norwich Avenue near Colchester town line. Fishing, non-motorized boats.

FUNDING: Since 2006, Lebanon's land preservation program has helped preserve almost 3,000 acres of farmland and open space at a town cost of \$530,291 or \$180 an acre. Farm property owners have received \$11,201,046 from State, Federal, non-profit, and local tax dollars respectively -- and donated \$2,246,630 in property value to place conservation easements on their land. Local tax dollars represent under 5% of these land preservation costs. *Lebanon residents are proud to be New England's leader in farmland and open space preservation!*



**LEBANON CONSERVATION &
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION**

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Lebanon, CT 06249

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LEBANON, CT 06249**

**Lebanon Conservation
and Agriculture
Commission**

Marc Lang, Chair
Jan Fitter, Vice Chair
Alton Blodgett
Emery Gluck
Keith LaPorte
Jon Slate
Ethan Stearns
John Drum, Alternate
Marc Wolf, Alternate
Michael Wolf, Student Rep.

Philip Chester, Town Planner

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We're on the Web!
www.lebanonct.gov

Lebanon WINTER Farmers Market: Nov. 20th and Dec. 18th

Lebanon's Winter Farmers Market will take place on Saturday November 20th and December 18th at Lebanon Senior Center, 37R West Town Street from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Local vegetables, eggs, honey, maple syrup, lamb, baked & prepared foods, wine, and artisan crafts will be sold at the Market.

A video about Lebanon's Farmers Market and farmland preservation can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En3mts9mQu8>.

Funding for the Market is provided by Lebanon's Economic Development Commission, Prides Corner Farms, The Scotts Company, Farm Credit East, Graywall Farms, and Cushman Farms.



JUNE - OCT.

About Lebanon's Conservation & Agriculture Commission

Lebanon's Conservation & Agriculture Commission is a 10-member volunteer advisory board made up of town residents appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Our mission is to protect

Lebanon's rural character, agriculture, and natural resources by advising town boards and residents on ways to best protect the town's valuable resources and promote open space and farmland preservation.

The Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 579 Exeter Road. Our meetings are open to the public and we look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.