



Lebanon School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lebanon Conservation Commission votes unanimously to support middle school Route 4 land.

On November 25th, the Lebanon School Board and School District filed with the Lebanon Conservation Commission an application to move forward with development on the school owned Route 4 property. Addressing wetlands was necessary before any school project on this site could move forward. Additional meetings in December included site walks of both the Route 4 property as well as the school owned Mascoma Street Extension property which would be used for mitigation of wetlands. Following these meetings and site walks, the Conservation Commission gave full and unanimous approval in support of the school district land located on Route 4.

The Route 4 property, which is one of the two Middle School building sites being considered for a new 5-8 Middle School, has 2.9 acres of wetlands on the property which requires mitigation before a building or playing fields could be placed on the site. The district is offering their Mascoma Street Extension parcel as its mitigation requirement, and is working with the Upper Valley Land Trust as a possible easement holder of the conservation easement.

It was the feeling of the Conservation Commission that the Route 4 land was a “mess” and that the proposed project would provide significant environmental benefits. The Conservation Commission, NHDES and EPA have all walked both sites, and their initial concerns centered on storm water treatment, preservation of natural buffers, reducing impacts and securing an easement holder for the Mascoma Street Extension Parcel.

The Middle School building committee has committed to using Low Impact Development (LID) which calls for a series of open and closed drainage components. This design will minimize impervious surfaces; filter and store water on site so that the water cycle functions as it would in its natural condition. Pathways Consulting, the project engineers will also be working with the UNH Stormwater Center on this design. The Lebanon School Board Finance and Facilities Committee with Architects Banwell and Associates have also made the commitment to the design of the Middle School project to be in accordance with the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NECHPS). Part of this program includes a category of points that are based on site design strategies. The Conservation Commission praised the school for committing to this program and providing the minimum requirements and encouraged them to consider other possible site category points. The building project will also strive to maintain as much natural buffer as possible.

The School Board is still examining which of the two sites for a 5 through 8 Middle School will be placed on the March 9th ballot. Under consideration is a new school building on the current Junior High School site with playing fields located on Route 4 or a school and playing fields all located on the Route 4 land. A site plan of the Route 4 parcel is attached.

For more information please contact Mary Jane Thibodeau, Chair of the Lebanon School Board Finance and Facilities Committee at 603-298-7932.

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