

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Sub-Committee

Minutes of June 7, 2019 Meeting

Meeting was convened at 8:00 am at City Hall, 41 Green Street

In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Heidi Lemay, Zib Corell, Peter Breu, and Craig Tufts

Subcommittee Members Absent: Guy Petell

Conservation Commission Members:

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning), Jim Major (GSD), Chip Chesley (GSD)

Others: Cory Keeffe (Community Forester)

1. Call to Order.

Ted called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00 Ted noted that Robert Baker informed him he would no longer be on the Tree Committee because he did not feel he had enough time to properly commit to it.

2. Minutes of May 1, 2019 meeting

The minutes of May 1 were approved unanimously.

3. Market Days Table Planning and Discussion

Heidi is taking the lead on the committee's Market Days presence, where we will share a space with General Services Touch a Truck on Friday June 21 from approximately 12-6pm. Ted will bring a small tent (if it is not windy) and a 6' table. Heidi mentioned she has an idea to do a tree themed selfie booth. Heidi, Ted, Zib, and Peter all indicated they could spend some time at the table.

There was discussion on what our message should be. It was noted that we should encourage property owners to plant and properly care for trees. We should have some tree-care/pruning materials present to hand out to people who are interested. It is also great to engage people on the importance of trees.

There was discussion on ideas for materials and activities to have at the table. This list includes:

Pamphlets on tree care/pruning

Peter will bring wood samples and branches

Leaves for tree ID quiz for kids

Fish and Game has a tub of educational materials – see if there is anything tree related.

Branches/visuals for booth – perhaps from Cobblestone

4. Tree Inventory

The group noted that Andy had provided us with some GIS data and Excel spreadsheets with tree inventory data from 2001. Craig noted he looked at the data and that it appeared to be exactly what we were hoping for. All the attributes were there, the excel definitions matched, and we could easily re-create any of the paper maps that were shared at previous meetings. It is a great starting point to be able to measure change since then, and to help build a new tree inventory program. It was noted that it would be great to see how the data was collected, such as inventory forms or data collection forms if they existed.

There was a long discussion about tree inventories, best practices, platforms, and what our method should be going forward. General Services was interested in how this is used as an asset management tool. We should think hard about how to set it up for the long term. It was thought that it would be good to do a test pilot on one street or short area to see how everything works. It was agreed that we should have a goal to work out the details this year so that we could start a tree inventory next growing season. We should take a long-term view of the inventory program.

Peter shared an article about Baltimore, where they have an extensive tree inventory and program. This could be helpful as a resource and for inspiration.

There was a lot of discussion about I-Tree and Tree Works and what data they are compatible with. Could they use shapefile/geodatabase GIS data or do they use their own system? Heidi agreed to look into this.

Jim and Chip from GST discussed how trees are often eliminated from construction projects as budgets run tight. It is often one of the first expenses to get cut. There was discussion on how to keep this from happening. There was also discussion on how tree plantings could be incorporated with any other road work such as paving. It was noted that there may be a more concerted effort to plan trees in areas that the Committee had identified as being in particular need due to existing conditions or perhaps economic conditions (wealthy vs. lower income neighborhoods for example).

It was noted that it would be good to get pictures of trees planted from the Tree Program, particularly pictures taken with the property owner. This can be shared with the Stephanie, the PIO.

5. Update on Outreach

The one-pager that has been discussed at previous meetings hasn't been completed, but the committee agreed it is still an important task and committed to completing it.

Beth shared the Tree Committee's webpage on the City's Website. It was full of resources and videos from events. The group thought it was great.

Beth shared some Arbor Day tree program that Concord has access too because of its status as a tree city. There were templates for forms that could share values for the benefits that trees can bring to the City. Beth would work on some of these with the PIO Stephanie. The Committee thought this was a great resource and that we should use it.

Cory reported that he looked in to the Tree Growth award and thought we have completed enough tasks to get the award. The group agreed the City should apply.

6. Membership Recruitment

The group shared ideas on how to recruit more committee members. It was asked what skills/expertise we could make use of. It was agreed that enthusiastic people who wanted to put some time into the effort is our primary need. It is not required that they are knowledgeable about trees in any way. It was also noted that it may be helpful to have a connection in the business community, or somebody who is familiar with the business community and their motivations.

Ideas for recruitment were to keep an eye towards interested people at the Market Days event, and to ask Tim Sink if there is interest at the Chamber of Commerce. It was noted that the Chamber has been successful with art in the City and that perhaps they could help find interested businesspeople or businesses who would like to participate.

7. Other Business

At the last meeting it was discussed that committee members would bring a list of properties or locations that were in need of trees. Peter discussed a few locations that stood out to him including the USPS plaza on Loudon Rd and the area of Convenient MD. Also State property at the corner of Fruit and Pleasant. There is plenty of space for trees. Zib also mentioned a recent cutting of trees on Route 106. Beth mentioned that they had indicated they planned on re-planting but that has not materialized. It may be worth reaching out to them to see if they would still plant. They are no requirements for them to plant, so it would be voluntary. It was also noted that some newly planted trees at the community center did not survive.

8. Next Meeting: July 19, 2019 at 8 am, Hutchins Street

The group discussed having a meeting at a different location. The Hutchins Street Water Treatment Plant was tentatively agreed on for a meeting location. Jim would look into meeting space availability.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts, Secretary

Market Days To-Do list

Ted and Heidi will lead on organizing

Ted or Heidi will ask when people will be able to be at the table

Ted will bring EZ up (if not windy) and a 6' table

Cory? Will provide a few pamphlets on tree care and pruning

Cory will bring some leaves for tree –ID activities

Peter will bring wood samples and branches of various trees

Craig may bring an Elm piece

Ted will check with Fish and Game to see about their Tub of educational materials

Ted will ask Cobblestone if they have any branches/trees that we could borrow

Beth will talk to Craig Walker to see if he knows of any props from Concord Players that could be borrowed

Ted will send to-do list and reminders

General To-Do List

Heidi would look into Tree Works and I-Tree to see what data types they use (perhaps not in time for the next meeting)

Cory could also look into I-Tree and Tree Works data

Jim would look at meeting space availability at Hutchins St

Jim would get pictures of tree plantings to Stephanie for posting

Somebody? Would ask Tim Sink about a Tree Committee member or liaison from the Chamber

DRAFT