

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Sub-Committee

Minutes of July 19, 2019 Meeting

Meeting was convened at 8:00 am at the Water Treatment Plant Conference Room – 53 Hutchins Street

In attendance:

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

Subcommittee Members Absent: Guy Petell, Peter Breu

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

1. Call to Order.

Ted called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00 am

2. Minutes of June 7, 2019 meeting

The minutes of June 7 were approved unanimously.

3. Report on Market Days

The group agreed it went pretty well for a first event. The quiet corner location wasn't the best but was good for a free first event with little lead time. Stephanie took pictures for social media. Cory brought limbs from various tree species for tree identification. People who staffed the table were encouraged by much interest this got. Peter Breu had wood samples that were also good to have on hand. Overall, the level of interest from the public was encouraging, and the group thought it would be good to have presence at next year's event.

It was also noted that National Night Out is coming up. This might be a good venue to be at too, as there are a more Concord locals than Market Days. It is probably too late to get a spot now, but it can be considered for next year. The event is put on by the police department.

4. Tree Inventory

The group had received a lot of information from Cory Keefe (Community Forester) about various tree-inventory methods and software, notably Tree Works and ITREE. It was noted that there was a lot of material that was forwarded to the group just yesterday afternoon. With so much information and so little time to review it, the group decided that before the next meeting we would review the material and discuss it at the next meeting, and seek input from General Services staff.

5. Discussion on properties in need of tree plantings

The group discussed code enforcement and how developments that received planning board approval with a landscaping plan are technically required to maintain their landscaping, including

trees. Beth told the group that landscaping maintenance has not been targeted for enforcement. There was discussion on how the Tree Committee could help Code with enforcement. It was determined that the committee could craft a template letter that Code Enforcement could send to a property owner that has lost trees and are no longer in compliance with planning board approvals. The group decided the letter should be a positive reminder and encourage tree planting rather than threaten with sticks. Having a letter on hand and identifying owners to send the letter to would be very helpful to Code Enforcement. The letter would still need to be sent by Code Enforcement but we could have everything set up and ready to go. Beth said she could work on a letter that could be used.

6. Other Business

Conversation led to how a tree map and walking tour of prominent or notable trees in Concord would be a good idea. Beth mentioned that Bob Pollock has been writing a book about rare and interesting trees in Concord, and it may be worth reaching out to him for more information for a walking tour or tree map.

It was noted that the Tree Committee should create a calendar so that the committee and/or the community can keep up with seasonal events. The committee may want reminders during the winter for gearing up for spring. Chip noted there is a General Services calendar that reaches every resident and that we could put tree related events on there.

Heidi mentioned concerns over maintenance of new tree planting at Whites Park, particularly the empty gator bags indicating the trees had not been watered. Craig mentioned tree plantings at Rollins Park had also not been watered. Heidi would reach out to Dave Gill about trees and tree maintenance on City parks and invite him to come to the next Tree meeting.

7. Next Meeting: September 27 at 8 am

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts, Secretary

General To-Do List

Everybody would review Cory's emails (forwarded from Beth on 7/18) with information on tree inventory software

Beth would work on a sample letter that Code Enforcement could send to property owners that are not compliant with their landscaping plans that had been required by the planning board.

Heidi would call Dave Gill to see about getting on the RPAC agenda to speak about trees and tree maintenance.