

**City of Concord**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Tree Sub-Committee**

Minutes of January 20, 2022 Meeting  
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street

In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Craig Tufts, Zib Corell, John Regan, Peter Breu

Conservation Commission Members: Rick Chormann

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning), Jim Major (General Services)

Others: Council Stacey Brown (City Council), Donna Reardon (Concord School District)

1. Call to Order.

Ted called the meeting shortly after 8:00.

2. Minutes of December 21.

The minutes of December 21 were unanimously approved.

3. Discussion with Donna Reardon Regarding Coordination with Schools

The committee introduced themselves to Donna, and Donna introduced herself as a retired teacher and former DES employee.

Ted began by saying the committee wanted to have a conversation about how we can best work with schools. He noted that we may be talking about tree planting and care on school property, but also about programs or coordination regarding trees elsewhere where students may get involved.

John noted that the committee isn't necessarily asking to add responsibilities for the school district, but to look for collaboration and ways to perhaps build tree planting and care into the school's curriculum.

Zib discussed how it might be good to have a connection with individual schools. She understands the School District is supportive but has limited resources, and that a model might be to have an ongoing group or advisor dedicated to trees, with support from a teacher or teachers.

The Tree-Plenish model was brought up, which uses college students. Zib and Donna liked the idea and thought the model could be adapted to Concord.

It was noted that students could get involved with caring for trees after planting. A class could plant then adopt a tree. Older kids could help plant. Some kids have an interest in landscaping.

Ted asked how to find teachers or administrators who may be interested. Ideas included:

- Environmental Club
- Outdoor Club
- Science Curriculum

- PTO could raise money for trees
- Project SEE
- Find things that are going on that we are not aware of
- 21C after School Program does a lot of projects

#### 4. City Council Priorities.

Stacey informed the Committee that the City Council is set to have a priority setting session soon. Stacy would like to propose an ambitious target for tree planting, along with a strategy and concrete goals. Some discussion ensued on how ready we are to implement an ambitious program, what might be realistic, and what the strategy could be. The committee expressed strong support for Stacy to propose tree planting be a City priority.

#### 5. South Street and South State Reconstruction

This will be on the February City Council agenda for a public hearing in March. Ted will work with Beth to write a memo for Council for review at the next meeting. It appears there is a good chance the trees and bump outs will be funded.

Zib and John reported that they have the info they need on residents whose property were identified as suitable for a tree planting. They will wait a while before reaching out because of COVID cases being high.

Jim reported that letters went out to abutters in early January. He hasn't heard anything back.

#### 6. Presentation to Energy and Environment Committee

Ted reported that he went to their last meeting and it went well. Our goals are more in sync with the direction they are going now than they were earlier, when they were focused on solar development. The thinking is to tie it back to carbon and providing something that people can individually act on to help reach climate goals. Ted noted that they may do heat mapping, which would be relevant to this committee, and may also do a climate plan.

#### 7. Tree Champion Award Proposal to Chamber

The proposal is now at the Chamber and they are looking at it. Ted will follow up next month on the status. The aim is for a spring and summer timeframe. It is looking like it would be a Chamber award jointly with the City Tree Committee.

#### 8. Funding and City Budget Requests

Beth reported she and Jim submitted a project change request for a budget line item of \$10,000 for tree planting for next year's City budget. It is important that whatever is programmed is spent this year, otherwise it may be difficult to get future budget requests. Because of this, it is important to have a good idea where these trees can be planted. The idea is for planting trees in the Penacook cemetery along Village St right behind the wall. This area needs trees, will help shade the street, and is a relatively easy lift in terms of making sure the trees can get planted. The committee thought this was a good idea and were pleased to see that it is going to be considered for inclusion

in the budget.

9. Tree walk

It was noted that February or March would be a good time to invite Bob Pollock to discuss a tree walk. It was noted that this may take up most of a meeting. Beth will reach out to invite him.

10. Other Business

Zib thought about working with Stefanie Brenton to do some PR on tree planting. Perhaps share pictures of people planting trees and post somewhere, such as the library or hallway at City Hall. An idea was to cover a tree with leaves, where each leaf represents a tree planted. It was noted there was a past goal to plant 2000 trees by 2000. The survival rate was only 20%. Too many trees were planted in the wrong place.

The Master Gardener Program at UNH extension, particularly Ruth Smith, may be able to help support sustainable tree planting by providing some expertise.

11. Next Meeting: Thursday February 24, 8:00AM

Meeting adjourned around 9:15 am

Respectfully Submitted,  
Craig Tufts, Secretary

To-Do list:

Ted will follow up with Chamber on Tree Champion award  
Ted will work with Beth on the memo to Council