

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

Minutes of June 23, 2022 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street

In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Craig Tufts, Zib Corell, John Regan, Peter Breu
Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning); Jim Major, Ryan Rambeau (General Services); Stefanie Breton (Public Information Officer)
Others: Stacey Brown (City Council), Liz McKinley (Community Forester NH Forester and Lands), Mayor Jim Bouley
Absent: Rick Chormann (Conservation Commission member)

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Minutes of May 10, 2022.

The minutes of May 10 were unanimously approved with no changes.

3. Discussion with Liz McKinley, Community Forester, NH Division of Forests and Lands

Everyone present introduced themselves to Liz, and Liz introduced herself and told the committee about her work and her position, which is Federally funded. She explained that she has not been in this position for very long and has plans that she is gearing up. She told the group that she noticed our committee's interest in tree inventories, and that is something she has an interest in, as well as management plans and arborist work. She also wants to support the Tree City USA communities. She also wants to get a grant program running, similar to the Maine Project Canopy assistance grants. She listed off some of the activities that the committee had mentioned in previous meeting minutes including Arbor Day events, seedlings, inventories, etc. and noted that she hopes to be able to assist us in some of these. She also noted that she would like to resurrect a Community Needs Assessment for NH cities and towns. She will look for Concord's response to the assessment from 10 years ago, the last time this was done.

Committee members asked a few questions of Liz regarding various grant opportunities including America the Beautiful and Forest Service grants. The committee also asked about street tree inventories, how to do them, and what to use them for. Liz offered some insight and to assist in the future.

Liz noted that she has an office here in Concord and would like to be on the committee's email list, and will come to as many meetings as she can.

4. Penacook Street Tree Walk

Participants of the walk reported that it was a very nice time. Councilor Todd who represents Penacook was in attendance, as well as Councilors Brown and Pierce, and Carol Foss, the Planning Board Vice Chair, in addition to Beth, John, and Zib. Beth reported they walked about 2/3 of the streets that are scheduled to be paved in 2023, and they identified 31 potential planting locations all of which were on private property. Beth will map the locations and make a list of addresses for Jim and Ryan to review before moving on to the next step.

There was discussion on how to notice property owners about trees. Jim Major said it would be possible to put in a notice about tree planting along with the notices they send residents about the cost sharing program for curbing.

The \$2.2 million budget for paving does not include trees. Trees are not part of the paving project, but we are using the paving project as a way to ID locations and reach out to the neighborhood. We could use our tree program grant to support tree planting or seek a grant of some other kind to subsidize the tree planting. It was noted that 30 trees would cost \$10-15,000, (\$300 to \$350 per tree) but it is very unlikely 30 trees will be requested. 10 or less may be more reasonable. The committee discussed potential sources of grant funding, including a possible TD Bank grant or simply using the tree Trust Fund.

As for timing, the paving would happen next summer/spring, but the planting would be best if it took place after the road work is completed, perhaps even the following spring. Some trees may end up on a waitlist if there are too many to plant in one season.

It was noted that the committee should reach out to the Penacook Village Association, and other residents such as Jack Shields to help get the word out and to gather any local knowledge. Jack has expressed interest in helping out with talking to residents, Beth will reach out to see if he may be interested in reviewing the streets that the committee didn't get to on our walk to identify tree planting locations.

After the discussion, the group noted this is a good learning experience and pilot for promoting tree planting. The steps were broken down as:

- Review paving schedule, coordinating with GSD
 - ID possible street tree locations along those streets
 - Add letters about the tree program to the notice to property owners about paving, curbing
 - Seek funding to help fund/match tree planting
5. Tree Champion award

Ted reported that he has not worked on this last month, and intends to follow up with the Chamber next week.

6. Bob Pollock's Concord Tree History Update

Stacey gave an extensive report on various happenings with tree history work and working with Bob Pollock. Stacey talked about plans for a tour, compiling a booklet on the trees, creating a poster similar to the steeples and spires poster, a digital tour, and more. She said everyone could send any photos they may have of the trees that are on their list. She can email the list to the

group. Stacey also mentioned the idea of creating a plaque at the tree that was dedicated to Bob in White Park. It was noted that there are steps and permissions needed to do this.

7. Grant Opportunities

John reported on some of what he has learned about grant opportunities. He noted the TD Bank grant that may be a good fit for tree planting along the Merrimack River Greenway Trail that is scheduled for construction next year, and may also be a fit for other projects. He also noted the America the Beautiful grant, which is an annual grant, TreePlenish, which would require a sustained involvement at the schools, and Utility giveaways, including possible grants from Eversource and Unutil.

8. Other Business

Tree Legacy Program at Beaver Meadow Golf Course – Beth handed out a flier that was made for the program for committee members to help distribute. The program accepts donations to plant trees, with different contribution levels. It is noted that donations will not be attached to specific trees, but will contribute to the overall tree planting. This approach avoids sensitivities that can arise if a tree that is dedicated to a specific person dies or needs to be removed.

The tree planting is taking place in response to the removal of many trees including stands of large white pines. There was discussion on balancing the needs of the tree canopy with operations of the golf course.

State Legislative Office Building – Mayor Bouley was able to answer some questions as to the status of tree plantings at the State Legislative Office Building. The area is devoid of trees after recent work. He reported that he learned there will be one sugar maple planted west of the police memorial, two red maples along Park at each corner, and an evaluation of additional trees around the complex.

Sustainability Fellow- Beth noted that the sustainability fellow will be visiting Concord in July. She will not be able to attend a Tree Committee meeting, but she will be at the Conservation Commission meeting on July 13th and committee members are invited to come.

Sustainable Tree Program – Ryan reported that they have planted 50 trees this year. This is more trees than they have removed this year, which is a first. The committee celebrated this achievement, and thought it would be good to play it up in an article. Ryan reported that most residents took up the sponsorship.

Ryan also noted an example of a street tree that was planted on Rumford St in 2013. He has a picture from the year it was planted, and now it can be seen larger than the home. It shows how well a tree can grow if it is cared for and in a good location. The group thought this might be a good case to highlight to promote the program.

Ryan and Stefanie noted that because of the success of the program so far, they slowed the promotion of the program because it was beginning to outpace capacity. The group had a discussion on how to increase planting capacity. There would be a substantial cost to hiring a second crew and backhoe to plant. In order to have a good success and survival rate, the crew should have a tree expert. Ideas for funding a second crew were discussed, including funding

through City funds, grants, as well as innovations such as hiring a landscaping company were discussed.

9. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 21 8:00AM

Meeting adjourned around 9:15 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts, Secretary

To-Do list:

Beth will map the locations that were ID'd for tree planting (addresses too)

Jim Major would add a notice about street tree program to the notification letters about curbing.

Ted will work on Tree Champion award nomination form

Stacey will email everyone the list of trees she is looking for photos of

Everyone can send Stacey tree photos

Ryan will send info on the Rumford St tree