

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

Minutes of October 28, 2022 Meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

## In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Peter Breu, John Regan, Zib Corell, Rick Chormann  
(Conservation Commission liaison)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning), Stefanie Breton (Public Information Officer); Chip  
Chesley and Jim Major (General Services)

Others: Stacey Brown (City Council), Lucy Gates and Tom Daigle (Guests)

### 1. Call to Order.

Meeting called to order by Ted Diers at 8:06 a.m.

### 2. Minutes of September 29, 2022.

The minutes of September 29, 2022 were unanimously approved with no changes.

### 3. Farmers' Market

Discussed success of attendance at the summer market and whether it should continue into the  
Winter market. Something to consider for late Winter/early Spring. Will revisit at a future  
meeting.

### 4. Tree tour update

About 50 people in attendance for the tour, owing great attendance potentially to the Concord  
Monitor article preview in the paper; weather was a little drizzly but farmers' market was also  
going on. Some people didn't register, they just showed up. Bob Pollock answered a lot of  
questions. Members see potential for future tree tours. Bob would like to get the information  
recorded into a book form. Information to come under the City umbrella for the website.

Discussion about other ways that residents and the community can get involved with sustainable  
trees in the City.

Lucy mentioned that maybe Bob could record some audio for a self-guided tour that could be  
used along with tour materials.

Check in with Concord TV about tree videos.

There was further discussion about what the messaging of the committee should be, and Ted  
suggested the top three things to focus on moving forward:

-Sustainable tree program/Street Trees

-Planting & keeping trees alive and healthy

-Trees in the backyard

Ted suggested keeping these ideas for spring and possibly working with Liz McKinley (Community Forester NH Division of Forest and Lands). She was unable to attend today.

Zib mentioned working with other committees and groups like the school district. Limited availability of the maintenance staff. Who else may be able to help? Any school groups?

Lucy asked whether any student groups or any students at NHTI could be involved.

John said that the committee has a lot of good ideas and has accomplished a lot but how can we keep moving forward and what is achievable?

#### 5. Tree Champion Award

Ted sent a draft to John and Stacey for review. Looking at a spring launch. Get the draft to the Chamber soon. Possibly its own event outside of their other events – possibly summer or fall. Ted will send a draft around to the whole committee.

#### 6. Penacook Update

Beth update: Fall meetings regarding the paving program will not be held, instead Matt Walsh will be doing a presentation to the Penacook Village Association (PVA) sometime in December and will include the street tree plantings in his presentation. We will miss the TD Bank grant deadline; however, there are other sources of funding to help pay for trees. Matt Walsh said there might be some TIF meeting and also some money from Wheelabrator who got the permit to pay in lieu of planting trees. Committee members can do the neighborhood canvassing after Matt's presentation. Consider sustainable tree program grant model for this? Jack Shields said he would help (he lives in Penacook).

#### 7. Grant Opportunities

John met with Liz McKinley, Danielle Gift, and Jessie Prucnal after the September meeting to further discuss grant opportunities. Some money will be coming through the BIL and IRA; however, guidance is not there yet. The goal is to get trees in the ground. Question of labor and how to handle that. Danielle Gift will be working on this for administering the federal funding. John also talked to Bob Allen at Eversource (arborist) for information on tree giveaway programs. They give out seedlings to school kids and a scholarship program, in addition to giveaways. Bob offered a tour of their arborium in Hooksett. Concord in out of their service area. John, Beth, Jim and Ryan are meeting on Monday to strategize discussions with Unitil. Ted mentioned the Conservation District plant sale – look at leftovers after the sale. Stacey asked whether or not residents could “foster” trees. John still looking into other grant opportunities as well.

#### 8. Sustainability Fellowship

Same program that the Energy & Environment used for their last fellow and report. Application due next week and also needs City Council approval. Look at possibility for next year.

#### 9. Report to City Council

Ted suggested drafting a report of “successes” to go along with the request to Council for the appropriation of money for the Penacook plantings. Jim said April timeframe should work to have the funding finalized. Look at March Council meeting for public hearing (submit in February). The report should include list of accomplishments and where the committee is headed. Committee will discuss at their January meeting.

#### 10. School Board

Committee would like to meet with the school board, but need to determine the best timing. Tom said the trees that were planted at the high school were small and planted when he was graduating from CHS, and it’s great to see how large and healthy they are now. Look at January or February. Put in request after new members are elected.

John mentioned that Liz said there could be a grant that is for schools.

#### 11. Other

Mayor Bouley passed along that new trees were planted at the Legislative Office Building (maples).

Beth said that new trees were planted on Borough Road and are doing well (feedback from Ryan).

Ask Matt to bring a “future home of sustainable tree” program sign to the PVA meeting?

Concord TV video of the Patten’s tree – get Mike talking points and confirm the grant program again. Early 2023 release.

Ted gave an update on the state buildings off Silk Farm Road – trees will be added.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned around 9:20 am.