

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

Minutes of December 7, 2022 Meeting  
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green Street

In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Craig Tufts, Peter Breu, John Regan, Zib Corell, Tom Daigle, Stacey Brown, Rick Chormann (Conservation Commission Liaison)

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning)

Others: Liz McKinley (Community Forester NH Forester and Lands), Ken Kinsella (guest), Meredith Cooley (guest)

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Minutes of October 28, 2022.

The minutes of October 28 were unanimously approved with no changes.

3. Talking Points for 21/8 Penacook Presentation

Beth reported that the plan now is for Matt Walsh to present to the Penacook Village Association (PVA) on a range of topics, including the Canal St park, Community Center, Exit 17, the paving program, and trees. Beth can put together a slide with some talking points for Matt to communicate at the meeting. Ted and the group offered suggestions on what the slide should say, including the street tree program, there will be a yet to be determined subsidy for trees will be provided, the benefits of street trees, etc. Unfortunately, the new timing will not allow for an application to the TD bank grant. It was noted that there is a TIF district in Penacook, which might be able to help pay for trees.

4. Sustainable Tree Program

It was reported that there is a wait list for next year as requests for trees this year outpaced the capacity to plant them. This led to a renewed discussion on the need and challenge of increasing capacity, including the costs of a new crew and oversight, and the possibility of hiring a landscaping contractor to supplement General Services. Today's meeting time conflicted with a General Services staff meeting.

5. Planting & Keeping trees alive and Healthy

There was discussion on this challenge. Conversation focused on community outreach, including the possibility of additional videos, and continuing to push existing videos and resources out to the community. We have videos on proper planting, proper pruning, as well as other resources. Events such as Arbor Day were discussed as options, including possible active demonstrations at an event, or celebrating tree birthdays.

Ted mentioned that in his experience you need to have a focused plan and outline for outreach. This includes setting goals/objectives, defining your audience, tactics, and assessments of success.

Methods for reaching out could include help from Hannah McBride (Master Gardener), using contacts from people who have used the sustainable tree program (they are the right audience).

Ted and Stacey agreed to work on an outline for outreach.

## 6. Backyard Trees

Ted reminded the group that this was another strategy identified to grow the tree canopy. He noted that trees along streets may be the most important, but it is very difficult to find suitable planting locations along streets. Working in places where they are likely to survive part of a good strategy.

Beth gave an example of a program in Manchester where there was an RFP for guaranteed tree sales at nurseries. Installing the trees was another challenge.

One idea was to have a cadre of volunteers to help with site visits, help with planting, etc..

## 7. Tree Champion Award

Ted reported that he worked with John on this and will have something for the committee to review soon.

## 8. Tree Tour Update

Stacey would like to do another tree tour, perhaps partnering with another group. Blossom Hill Cemetery might be a good place for a tour. A bicycle tour was also an idea. The group thought it would be good to aim for Memorial Day, which might line up well with the Cemetery idea. Trees could be blossoming in Blossom Hill Cemetery.

## 9. Grant Opportunities

John did some work and sent it to Beth and Ted. He reported on a long list of possible grant opportunities he had been following. They include reaching out to Unutil and Eversource. Unutil committed to donating 10 trees. They also have a program where it appears we could get funding for trees in September.

## 10. Guest from Greenspace Coalition

Meredith Cooley introduced herself as from the Concord Greenspace Coalition, which is a community of residents and volunteers working to advocate for the City in term of smart growth, sustainable development, financial resiliency, and equitable development. They are following a number of initiatives in the City such as the I-93 project and the form-based zoning code. She expressed she is excited to be here.

She noted that she and the Greenspace Coalition are interested in the tree canopy in Concord and would like to focus some energy to help. She noted their first step is to come here to this meeting to learn and see how we all may be able to work together.

Ted mentioned some of what the tree committee has learned and what the challenges are. He noted that locations that once had trees may no longer be able to sustain trees in the future. He noted it is important to have a connection with volunteers, and helping to find places to plant trees on private property with along streets (in partnership with property owners), as well as helping encourage people to care for trees that are planted. The committee has a strength in that it can often find ways to provide trees and funding where needed, but need people and places to partner with. There was discussion on how Greenspace Coalition and the Tree Committee could work together on this.

#### 11. Guest Ken Kinsella

Ken introduced himself as a recent graduate of the Natural Resource Stewardship Program. He has a background in GIS and would like to volunteer his services and expertise. He is a Penacook resident, and noted an interest in removing invasive plants on trails, public outreach via crowdsourcing apps, and inventories.

#### 12. Next Meeting: Thursday January 19, 8AM

Meeting adjourned around 9:15 am

Respectfully Submitted,  
Craig Tufts, Secretary

#### To-Do list:

Ted and Stacey agreed to work on an outline for outreach.

Stacy will share CNHRPC content for a storymap

Beth will prepare a slide for Matt Walsh presentation to PVA