

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

Minutes of March 31, 2023 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street

In attendance: Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Zib Corell, John Regan, Stacey Brown, Rick Chormann (Conservation Commission Liaison)

Absent: Tom Daigle, Craig Tufts

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

Ted called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Minutes from the February 24, 2023 meeting were approved.
2. **Spring Outreach Event – May 16, 6 p.m., City Wide Community Center**
Liz and AJ from Division of Forest and Lands will lead the presentation/planting demonstration. Until 10 containerized trees are donated to the City, the plan is to plant one as part of the event and raffle off the rest to participants. Ted will follow up with Stacey Luke at MCCD about getting bare root plants. Beth will follow up with Stefanie to create a flyer and start getting the word out.

Stacey brought up Steve Winnett and his book “Cooling our Communities”, and potentially using information from that to educate residents. Members agreed a “one-pager” focusing on this would be helpful to have on hand, and perhaps get the Concord Monitor to do an article. Ted will follow up with Steve.

Also discussed having Stefanie interview Ted on the Talk Concord podcast in April leading up to Arbor Day “Ted Talks Trees”. Beth will follow up with Stefanie.

3. **Penacook Trees Outreach**
John, Zib, and Stacey gave updates on their outreach efforts. A few residents showed interest. Jim will follow up to let us know what residents from Penacook have signed up.
4. **Tree Champion Award**
Beth will forward comments on the draft she received from members to Ted, he will follow up with the Chamber. John mentioned this may be a good opportunity/initiative for the Concord Young Professionals Network. Thinking this will be a fall event.
5. **Blossom Hill Tree Tour Map**
Stacey reported that she has had some push-back on hosting a tour at the cemetery.

Concerns from Cemetery/Parks staff that it could potentially be disrespectful to families having people walking all over looking at trees. Memorial Day is definitely out due to the cemeteries being very busy over that weekend. Stacey will keep pushing to do something, and will focus the tour on trees that are directly on the driveways and walking paths.

There was further discussion about how to get Bob's information for other sites cataloged so that eventually the tours can happen without him being there. Stacey would like to seek "presenter fees" for Bob if he leads future tours.

Ted stated that we should write up a proposal for these tours, including the context around why the subcommittee wants to pursue these further. It should provide clear direction as to who is endorsing it, and that it should be a City supported initiative. The letter would be passed up through Council and Administration. Stacey will start a draft and circulate for review.

6. Grant Opportunities

John provided an update on the contributions from Unital, including the trees that will be used for the May 16th event, and potential monetary grant in August-September timeline. He's still not clear if more information is needed from us for the funds. He reported that the Division of Forest and Lands announced the Spring 2023 Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement Program, and he passed the information to Stephanie Bowser, and he believes the High School is going to apply for the program. He also passed along an update from Liz that G&C recently approved BIL funding that includes money for tree planting at 3 underserved communities - as well as money for a conference and community training. The Heights area of Concord qualifies. More information coming later. No updates on the IRA funding at the State level yet.

7. School Connections

Discussion postponed to next month when Tom is back.

8. Annual report to Council

The annual report was submitted along with the request to appropriate additional funds. May 8th will be the public hearing, Ted will present.

9. Arbor Day

Arbor Day event will be held April 28th at 10 am, tentatively at Kimball Park. Beth will follow up with David Gill to confirm location.

10. Other Business

John will follow up with Eversource to schedule a tour of their Arboretum in Hooksett sometime in April or May. Ted would like to schedule a tour of the State nursery as well.

Zib would like to add the Farmers Market to the April agenda. Stacey would like to look into how we can get “tree swag” created. Perhaps the Chamber or Intown Concord would partner.

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 19th, 8 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.