

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

Minutes of April 19, 2023 Meeting  
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green Street

In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Craig Tufts, John Regan, Zib Corell, Peter Breu, Tom Daigle, Stacey Brown

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning), Stefanie Brenton (PIO)

Others: Liz McKinley (Community Forester NH Forest and Lands)

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:00.

2. Minutes of March 31, 2023.

The minutes of March 31 were unanimously approved with no changes.

3. Farmer's Market

The group discussed having a Tree Subcommittee presence at the farmer's market this season as was done last year. Last year the committee had a presence three times in the spring, and 2 or 3 in the fall. The group agreed that worked last year, and that we should do it again. Last year there was a message of "no mulch volcano". The group discussed what the message should be this year. There was discussion about possible information on bare root plantings and a "bare naked roots", and possibly have a bare root tree example on hand. There was additional discussion on possible materials to have on hand, with new ideas including an "all you need" flier (spade shovel, pocket knife, bag of mulch, guide for planting) from Arbor Day Foundation, a pruning brochure, a list of nurseries, and Stacey's tree tour.

It was agreed to have a presence at the market on May 20<sup>th</sup> (Zib and Stacey), June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Peter and Tom), and June 17<sup>th</sup> (John and TBD).

4. Discuss topics and goals for outreach to School Board

Tom led the discussion, noting that the subcommittee is on the June School Board agenda. He reported that right now he is gathering information. Principal Blinn of Abbott Downing is moving forward with State grants through Liz's division. Tom also reported that he will reach out to the Capital Facilities Subcommittee in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that he indicate to the Board that the tree subcommittee has worked with Matt Cashman before. One talking point suggested by the members is that trees are part of infrastructure.

There was some discussion on the approach, including the topics and goals. Ted noted that there are two primary categories: to get trees in the ground, and culture/education.

## 5. Tree Champion Award

Ted reported that he had exchanged messages with Tim Sink from the Concord Chamber, but had nothing else to report at this time.

## 6. Blossom Hill Tree Tour Map

Stacey reported on the latest status. The group felt it appropriate to draft a one pager explain why tree tours are appropriate and a good idea for Blossom Hill. Stacey worked up a draft, Beth will review and share.

## 7. Grant Opportunities

John reported that Unitil is donating containerized trees that will be available for the event on May 16. 1-2 trees will go to Parks and Rec for planning, and the rest will be a giveaway or raffle for attendees. It was agreed the winner must be a Concord resident. The event is a demo of bare root and containerized trees at Keach Park. The Merrimack County Conservation District is donating the bare root trees.

Liz reported on the Canopy Enhancement grant. Abbot Downing and the High School both applied and had great applications. The program has 46 trees to give away.

There is a grant program through the Inflation Reduction Act, with proposals due June 1. The grant has an award range of \$100,000 to \$5 million, with a 50% match. It was asked if there was anything in the current city budget that could be used as match for this grant. Another idea was to explore if the grant could be used to expand Concord's tree planting capacity, noting that the Sustainable Tree program is above capacity and has a waiting list.

It was determined that the June 1 deadline was too soon and there was not a project ready to go. The Subcommittee should work to have a project in upcoming grant rounds.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds appear to be available soon with an application expected to come out later this summer. "Underserved communities" would be eligible. The Heights neighborhood would qualify. It was agreed this would be a good agenda item for next month.

## 8. Upcoming events

Several events were discussed including Earth Day Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> at Abbot Downing, 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am Arbor Day tree planting at Kimball Park, Eversource Arboretum tour in Hooksett May 8, May 16<sup>th</sup> tree planting event at Community Center/Keach Park.

## 9. Other Business

The group asked what the status of the Sustainable Tree Program is, and it was reported that there is already a wait list to 2024. The planting crew is at capacity, however they may do a fall planting if quality trees are available. The group thought it would be good to ask Ryan for his thoughts on the best way to expand capacity of the program.

## 10. Next Meeting: Thursday May 25, 8AM (Backup day the 26<sup>th</sup>)

Meeting adjourned around 9:30 am

Respectfully Submitted,  
Craig Tufts, Secretary