

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Sub-Committee

Minutes of August 17, 2023 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green Street

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers (Chair), John Regan, Zib Corell, Craig Tufts, Liz McKinley, Councilor Brown,

Absent: Peter Breu and Tom Daigle

Staff: Heather Shank (Planning), Jim Major (General Services – Highway)

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15

2. Minutes of June 29th.

Minutes were not available.

3. Tree Planting on the Heights

Members discussed possible dates/ times in September to walk Airport Road and Pembroke Road to identify street tree locations for the Sustainable Tree program in conjunction with the paving program and new sidewalk construction. Councilor Brown will reach out to Councilors Matson and Bouchard. Possible dates included 9/21 and 9/27 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Ms. Shank said she would put maps together for the walk.

4. Farmer's Market update

- a. Based on feedback from the July Farmer's Markets, Zib and John suggested shifting the message away from planting bare root stock to focusing on the shade value of trees. Zib is going to try to fabricate a display. Liz has a brochure on shade benefits. Zib suggested a set up including an old air conditioner unit and the model tree for the market. John will do the September 9th Farmers Market.
- b. Ted will work the 9/23 Farmers' Market. Zib said she would do 10/7 or 10/14.

5. Ongoing / Follow Up Items

- a. School Board – No report. Tom Daigle was the lead on this but is not present.
- b. Tree Champion Award – Ted Diers reported he talked with Tim Sink from the Concord Chamber and will send him materials on the approach the committee has been working on. Tim will help Ted find a Chamber event for us to participate in. There was discussion that organizing a “Business and the Environment” event with the Chamber may be a good idea. Topics could potentially be energy, trees, trails, etc. Ideas for potential sponsors were also floated. Ted will mention this idea to Tim Sink. Stacey will bring it up at an Energy and Environment Committee meeting. Members discussed that the Tree Champion Award may honor a person or

a business. The first award is planned for an individual, but businesses should get the awards later.

- c. Tree tour – There was nothing new to report on the tree tours. It was mentioned that there will be a 603 History Hunt associated with the Historical Society, and it may be possible to include notable trees or elements of the tree tour as part of it. An additional idea was posed regarding presenting to the Heritage Commission regarding the tree tour and legacy trees to share.
 - d. Grant opportunities update (John & Liz) – John reported that he had been in contact with Unitil, and they are anticipating making a contribution but are waiting to hear how much they have and will be able to offer. It was noted we expect to hear in September. The money would likely go into the trust fund. There was no report on the State program. An Audubon program was mentioned with Carol Foss taking the lead.
6. Other Business
- a. Members briefly discussed opportunities to engage CATCH housing with the committee's work and the opportunities and benefits to tree plantings at their planned and existing housing sites. CATCH could be targeted for specific grants or donations.
 - b. It was noted that 22 trees were planted through the Sustainable Tree program this season. This was a reduction from last season. It was noted there were some complications this year that created delays and reduced the number they were able to plant. Members agreed that the challenge of increasing tree planting capacity should be further investigated at upcoming meetings.
 - c. It was noted that there is a Beaver Meadow Golf Course tour being offered in October.

7. Next Meeting: September 21 at 8 am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Shank, City Planner