

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, Councilor Stacey Brown, Tom Daigle

Absent: Peter Breu and Liz McKinley

Staff: Heather Shank (Planning), Stephanie Brenton (PIO)

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05

2. Minutes of August 16.

The minutes of August 16th, 2023 were unanimously approved with a grammatical error correction and to note that Zib made the Farmer's Market materials.

3. Tree Planting on the Heights

The group discussed a planned walk on the Heights to look for tree planting locations next Wednesday, 9/27 at 4:30 pm. The meeting location will be at the Community Center on Canterbury Rd, where they will have a discussion and head out in cars to various sites.

Airport Rd, Pembroke St, Chenell Dr, and others are all scheduled to be paved, with new sidewalk on Pembroke St, Chenell Dr, and Airport Rd.

The group reiterated that this is a chance to reach out to property owners who may host trees, and have trees planted as part of the roadwork project.

John described methods that the committee had used to reach out to property owners in past projects.

Craig reported on conversations at TPAC Bike-Ped where staff from engineering shared cross-section of where the new sidewalks would go. Most would have curb right up to the street. It appeared some mature trees along the far end of Pembroke St may need to be removed for the sidewalk. He also noted that TPAC PB discussed the possibility of a future neighborhood informational meeting. Craig will let the Tree Committee know if he hears of such a meeting as it could be an opportunity for the Tree Committee to connect with residents.

The group asked Heather for maps of roads that are being paved.

Councilor Brown informed the committee of some of the people she had invited to participate, including City Councilors and those running for City Council in those wards. The committee had suggestions for others to invite.

Heather noted that with such a group, it will be important to specify the purpose of the meeting and the walk so we can stay on task.

It was suggested to bring high visibility utility vests or bright clothing. These are busy roads especially at this time of day.

4. Farmer's Market update

Committee members have covered a few Farmer's Markets with a setup that included and air conditioner case with a cardboard tree in it. It was noted that there was not as much of a draw as they had hoped. They did get some good pictures and Stephanie has used them for the City Manager's Newsletter. Tom has the current materials

5. Ongoing / Follow Up Items

- a. School Board – Tom reminded the group we spoke to the School Board back in June for a good introduction. The School Board is very preoccupied with the Middle School, so now is the not the best time to engage them on trees. After discussion, it was decided to meet after the Middle School decision is made and work on coordination and building communication.
- b. Tree Champion Award – Ted Diers reported he has been back and forth communicating with Tim Sink from the Concord Chamber. Councilor Brown reported she had spoken with the Energy and Environment Committee about the idea of a Business and the Environment event and they were supportive. The group thought a physical award would be a nice touch, perhaps an etched or engraved piece of woodwork.
- c. Tree tour – Councilor Brown noted there was interest from the young professionals CYPN. They do a tree tour and some components of the tree tour could be included. Another idea was to push the existing tree tour to the Chamber to incorporate into downtown tours they already have.
- d. Grant opportunities update- John reported he heard back from Unitil with some disappointing news that they will not be able to provide the support we had anticipated. They will however donate \$100.

He also reported that the IRA grant the Audubon applied for was not successful this round. It was noted there will likely be a chance to reapply in the next year or two. The group discussed the level of work that goes into applying for and administering such a grant.

John reported that Liberty Utilities did a tree giveaway in Pelham, and he will ask if they might be willing to provide resources here in Concord.

He also reported he asked Liz about the state funding for underserved communities, and heard that they are still working on setting up the program. The award amounts could be in the \$8,000 range.

6. Other Business

- a. Stacey noted that she had been in touch with NHTI about the potential for students there to do capstone projects involving work of the tree committee. The group discussed several possibilities for work products for the students.

- b. Zib had a follow up comment to last month's discussion about CATCH housing, and noted that the cooperatively owned mobile home parks might be a good way to reach underserved communities. The group agreed this approach could be a good one. Craig offered to share the list of coops he has. Zib noted there were four in Concord, mostly along the route between Concord and Penacook.
 - c. After brief discussion, it was decided it wasn't necessary for the Tree Committee to go to Beaver Meadow as planned. Heather will reach out to the Golf Course Advisory Committee to cancel.
7. Next Meeting: Thursday October 26 at 8am. It was noted we should check Ted's availability in advance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts

DRAFT