

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Subcommittee

Minutes
November 30, 2023 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green Street

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers (Chair), John Regan, Zib Corell, Craig Tufts, Peter Breu, Liz McKinley, Councilor Stacey Brown, Rick Chormann

Absent: Tom Daigle

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner (Planning)

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Minutes of October 26, 2023.

The meeting minutes for the meeting held on October 26, 2023, were unanimously approved with a minor edit to correct the radio station name from WZXL to WKXL.

3. Tree Planting on the Heights

Ted Diers reported that the walk on the Heights was great, and it was a nice way to learn more about the neighborhood. AnneMarie Skinner sent a spreadsheet of identified possible tree planting locations to Ryan Rambeau (community forester) for review. Mr. Rambeau plans to report to the subcommittee on the feasibility of these locations at the December meeting. The group requested that the spreadsheet sent to Mr. Rambeau also be shared with the subcommittee. Ms. Skinner said she would email the spreadsheet to the group.

4. Ongoing/Follow-up Items

- a. School Board – Tom Daigle was not able to attend the meeting. Ted Diers noted that there would be little to report for the foreseeable future regarding this issue, and the group discussed removing it from the “ongoing/follow-up items” agenda list for now.
- b. Tree Inventory – The group continued discussion from the previous meeting about options for inventorying and accounting for trees in advance of private development as part of the city’s zoning or other regulations. There was further discussion of some of the tools and methods that have been used in other parts of the country. AnneMarie Skinner shared what she has seen in other communities, including Portland, OR. Liz McKinley referenced an example from Concord, MA. The group agreed that Ms. McKinley or anyone else with examples would send that information to Ms. Skinner. Ms. Skinner will put together a list and description of options from other communities. The subcommittee will review this list and discuss at the next meeting.

The subcommittee agreed it would be good to attend a Conservation Commission meeting to report on subcommittee progress, and this topic would be a good one to discuss in such a meeting.

- c. Tree Champion – There was discussion on what could be presented for an award. There were several ideas involving wood work or tree images. Subcommittee members agreed to further develop various ideas and report back to the group at the next meeting.

Liz McKinley offered that she has learned that most trees in Portland, ME were planted by the private sector.

- d. Tree Tours – The group recalled the consensus from the last meeting that the subcommittee should work toward assembling the materials needed so that tree subcommittee members could host tree tours or produce information for self-guided tours. The group briefly discussed the existing materials and resources. Stacey Brown said she would contact Bob Pollock to see how/if he would be comfortable with the subcommittee using his work for official tree tours.

The group decided this would be another topic worth discussing with the Conservation Commission.

The group considered inviting Dave Gill to a meeting to discuss options for tree tours in parks or cemeteries.

- e. Tree City USA – AnneMarie Skinner reported the application is in process. A proclamation for Arbor Day was signed. Liz McKinley noted that they would like to see a picture of the tree that was planted as part of the application and said she would email those pictures to Ms. Skinner.
- f. Grant Status- The group reviewed a list of grants and funding sources that was produced by John Regan. This list was circulated to the subcommittee prior to the meeting. The group discussed the items on the list, specifically noting that a \$100 donation from Unutil had been received. Ms. McKinley mentioned the Growth Award, and noted that would be worth pursuing.

5. Other Business

- a. Stacey Brown reported that she had been communicating with an instructor and a student at NHTI about a capstone project. This student plans to take an old EPA booklet about planting trees for cooling and compile it into a brochure and/or poster that we could use. Ms. Brown noted that she will be meeting with this individual in December. Ms. McKinley thought to make sure the content from the old EPA booklet is reviewed and updated for items such as species that are now considered invasive.

6. Next Meeting: December 21, 2023, 8:00 AM Alternative December 22, 2023, 8:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts