

**City of Concord**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Tree Subcommittee**

Minutes  
December 21, 2023 Meeting  
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green Street

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers (Chair), John Regan, Zib Corell, Craig Tufts, Stacey Brown, Rick Chormann

Absent: Peter Breu, Tom Daigle, Liz McKinley

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner (Planning)

1. Call to Order.

Ted Diers called to order at 8:05 AM.

2. Minutes of November 30, 2023.

The meeting minutes for the meeting held on November 30, 2023, were unanimously approved.

3. Tree Planting and Paving Program

Ryan Rambeau and Jim Major were not available to report on the tree planting locations, but AnneMarie Skinner summarized the tree planting locations that they had scouted and entered into the spreadsheet. Ms. Skinner noted that there were 10 tree locations that were deemed suitable, with others that were deemed marginal or unsuitable. Ms. Skinner said she would email the revised spreadsheet to the subcommittee. She also reported that she heard from Jim Major that a portion of Pembroke Road from Blodgett Street to Branch Turnpike would not be paved next year because of upcoming water main work that will require digging up the road in the near future.

4. Ongoing/Follow Up Items

- a. Tree Champion – Ted Diers contacted Steve Whitman about creating an award that could be presented. Mr. Whitman is willing to donate an award. Mr. Diers has a handout of examples, showing tree rings of beech, ash, spruce, and white pine. The subcommittee tentatively thought the ash may be the best choice, but Mr. Diers will send email the pictures to the subcommittee for review and final choice.

John Regan reported that he met with the Chamber of Commerce and decided upon a plan for the award. They agreed it would be good to present the award at an upcoming Business After Hours event, targeting May 2024. The subcommittee will have two minutes to present the award. The awardee will need to be notified in advance to confirm they will be present to accept the award.

- b. Tree Tours – Ted Diers reported that he had hoped to discuss this with the Conservation Commission at their last meeting but he was unable to attend the meeting. Stacey Brown reported that she contacted Bob Pollock about using his materials, and it appeared that he really wants to use the materials for an upcoming

book. Mr. Pollock has some great material but it does not belong to the subcommittee, and will not be used without permission. Stacey Brown will follow up to see what might be amenable to Mr. Pollock. It was thought a self-guided tour of the State House area would be a good start for a self-guided tree tour, and if successful perhaps the idea of a tour of Blossom Hill Cemetery could be revisited.

- c. Tree City USA – AnneMarie Skinner reported that the Tree City USA application has been submitted. There was discussion on the program and the requirements communities need to meet in order to be designated a Tree City, which include the city recognizing Arbor Day, a mayoral proclamation of Arbor Day, and a tree budget that meets a certain percentage of the overall budget. It was noted that some grants require a Tree City designation.
5. New Business
    - a. AnneMarie Skinner brought it to the attention to the subcommittee that the city has available representation on the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (UMRLAC). Concord is allowed four representatives but currently has only one. There was discussion on the purpose of the committee. The group was encouraged to ask around for potential candidates and contact Ms. Skinner if anyone is interested.
  6. Other Business
    - a. Liz McKinley, who was not present, had reported prior to the meeting that the School Canopy program had been restarted in 2023.
    - b. Delta Dental. Craig noted that at Horseshoe Pond there is a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district where a portion of taxes raised from the district are reinvested back into the district. This funding source could fund tree planting, and may have done so in the past when ash trees succumbing to EAB were replaced. It was noted there are a number of TIF districts in the city with different purposes. It was thought this issue may be one for the subcommittee to learn more about in the future.
    - c. There was discussion on how the subcommittee had originally wanted to focus its efforts on street trees and on restoring and maintaining the tree canopy in the developed parts of Concord that need it most. It was noted that many of the activities the subcommittee has going on now are not focused on this issue. It was agreed that in 2024 the group should work to re-focus on downtown trees and street trees.
  7. Next Meeting: Friday, January 26, 2024, 8:00 AM
  8. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 AM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Craig Tufts