

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Subcommittee

Minutes of March 22, 2024 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green St, Concord

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: John Regan, Vice-chair Zib Corell, Peter Breu, Tom Daigle, Craig Tufts, Stacey Brown, Liz McKinley

Absent: Chair Ted Diers, Rick Chormann

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner (Acting City Planner), Jim Major (Highway and Utilities Superintendent), Stefanie Breton (Public Information Officer)

Guest: Steve Winant, Bob Maccini

1. Call to Order.

Vice-chair Zib Corell called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Chair Diers had previously indicated he would not be able to attend.

2. Minutes of February 22, 2024

The minutes of February 22, 2024 were unanimously approved with a minor correction to clarify Stacey Brown's absence at the last meeting.

3. Upcoming Planning Applications

AnneMarie Skinner recited a long list of applications that are coming before the Planning Board. Various members of the subcommittee identified projects along Manchester St as areas of interest. There are relatively few trees planted in that area now, so protecting existing trees may be less of an issue. Developments along Loudon Rd and a residential development along Fisherville Rd were also discussed. Ms. Skinner said new development would be required to plant trees as part of a landscaping plan that would be reviewed by staff and approved by the Planning Board. The group thanked Ms. Skinner for sharing the list of projects and explaining the process.

4. Farmers' Market

The group discussed plans for attending the farmers' market this year. The feeling had been it would be more effective to go to the market events in the spring, and then sporadically through the summer. It was mentioned that an agenda item at the next meeting should be finalizing some dates. The air conditioner display can still be the draw.

There was discussion on whether or not to do a bare root stock tree giveaway as was done last year. It was thought many or most of the trees given away were not planted, and it was hard to find Concord residents who could plant them. There is also the Unutil 10-tree giveaway where the subcommittee could get trees to donate.

It was decided to do the bare root tree giveaway at the farmers' market. Tom Daigle will go through the Unutil application process to request the 10 donated trees. Everyone will look for sites to accept a donated Unutil tree and report at the next meeting, which would be preferred to giving them away at the farmers' market.

It was also felt we should work on the material display of handouts. It may be good to have a variety of materials on hand, but it can be too haphazard if too many things are on the table. The Sustainable Tree Program brochure, the self-guided tree tour brochure, and a link to general information about the subcommittee may be the priorities. Vice-chair Corell can store the materials and would need to arrange pickup to anyone going to the market.

5. Arbor Day Proclamation

Ms. Skinner reported that Arbor Day in 2024 is April 26. Ms. Skinner has coordinated with David Gill the planting location as Garrison Park for two trees on Arbor Day. It is next to the Second Start Day Care, so there will be children that can participate. The mayor will need to sign the proclamation.

6. Tree Champion

We still do not know how many event tickets the awardee will request. Members John Regan, Chair Ted Diers, Stacey Brown, and Peter Breu will attend, as will Beth Fenstermacher. Half-price tickets are available for guests associated with the award. Chair Diers still needs to finalize the award plaque.

7. Tree Tour

Ms. Skinner produced a map of the tree locations showing which were on City or State property, and which were on private property. Trees on private property cannot be on the tour. Stacey Brown will write up content for the trees on City or State property. It appeared they were all in an area that could be walked in a short walk.

The material should be reviewed by the Tree Subcommittee, then will go to the Conservation Commission before being posted.

8. Property Owner Outreach - Lawrence St and Airport Rd

Vice-chair Corell was able to reach one person who was interested in speaking further about a tree planting. Ms. Corell will share contact information with Jim Major so they can set up a time to meet with Ryan Rambeau about a possible tree planting.

9. State Nursery Tour

John Regan reported that he contacted the state nursery and learned that a tour could take place in late May or June. Being so far out, it was decided to hold off on selecting a date.

10. The next meeting is on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

11. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts

To-do list:

Tom Daigle will fill out the form for 10 Unutil trees and have them delivered to his house.

Everyone will research opportunities to plant the 10 trees and report back.

Ted Diers will finalize the tree champion award.

Tom Daigle will order tickets for the Chamber event for the tree award.

Stacey Brown will produce a written document of the self-guided tree tour trees for review at the next meeting.

Zib Corell will send contact information to Jim Major for resident about tree planting and paving.

John Regan will contact the addresses identified for tree planting.

Future Agenda Items Identified:

Farmers' Market – pick dates and volunteers

State Nursery walk – pick date

From January meeting: Aim for a May walk of Storrs St