

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Subcommittee

Minutes of April 26, 2024 Meeting - DRAFT
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green St, Concord

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Chair Ted Diers, Vice-chair Zib Corell, John Regan, Tom Daigle, Stacey Brown, Rick Chormann (Conservation Commission), Liz McKinley (Div. of Forests and Lands)

Absent: Peter Breu, Craig Tufts

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Director of Special Projects), Jim Major (Highway and Utilities Superintendent)

Guests: Steve Winnett, Madi Hendrick (Chamber of Commerce)

1. Call to Order.

Chair Diers called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Minutes of March 22, 2024

The minutes of March 22, 2024 were unanimously approved with a minor correction to spelling a guest's name.

3. New Business

- a. *Delta Dental and potential project funding* – Zib Corell reported that she spoke with Delta Dental about trees on Commercial Street. Delta doesn't own the land. But she suggested that a tree planting at the new Pleasant Street Housing might be a good use of a financial donation from Dental. This will be taken up a future agenda.

4. Old Business

- a. Tree Champion Award – any final details - Ted will work with Peter to finalize the award and get the proof to Madi at the Chamber to review and approve. Ted will present the award at the event at Grappone Mazda at 6 PM on May 14. The award recipient's guest list of attendees are registered and approved by the Chamber. Madi Hendrick (Concord Chamber of Commerce) is present at the meeting and confirms all the details are set for the event and the award announcement.
- b. Farmers' Market - finalize dates and literature – Zib passed around a sign-up for dates over the summer. It will be the responsibility of the assigned person to get the materials. The committee discussed various materials and agreed on having the sustainable tree program brochure, the new shade fact sheet from Miriah King from NHTI, and tree planting guide. Our committee shares space at the Market with the Merrimack Valley Conservation District and we need to continue letting them know which weeks we will be there. Confirm the lines of communication at the next meeting.

Stacey Brown is working to finalize the self-guided downtown tree-tour brochure for review and approval by the City. Once approved it will be added to the handout list for the Farmers' Market.

- c. Until 10 trees – Tom Daigle and John Regan applied for a total of 10 free trees through the Until Energy-Saving Trees program (an Arbor Day Foundation Program). Jim Major contacted Blossom Hill cemetery and confirmed they will take the trees. The Subcommittee asked Jim Major to have Ryan Rambeau transport the trees to the cemetery and recommend planting locations for each one.
 - d. Bare root stock giveaway initiated – Ted Diers contacted Stacy Luke at the Conservation District. He will try to get the trees later today. And, make sure that they are available for the first day at the Farmers Market on May 11.
 - e. Self-guided tree tour brochure – Stacey Brown agreed to send the tour brochure to Stefanie Breton for formatting and printing. She was able to get permission from the Historical Society and Concord Housing to include the trees on their properties. The brochure will be sent around to the subcommittee members for review before publication on the City website and use at events.
 - f. Property owner outreach for tree planting – results -- Various Subcommittee members have performed outreach to residences in the vicinity of the paving project on and around Airport Road. Brochures were left with some residences and there does not appear to be strong interest from eligible residences. Jim Major will follow up with one residence to confirm their interest.
 - g. Nursery tour – discuss date -- The subcommittee landed on June 6 as the best date for the tour. John Regan will reach out to the contact at the state nursery to set up the tour.
 - h. Walk on Storrs St – this item was suggested by Stacey Brown to identify locations for trees once the State garage comes down. Since that is a few years out, Ms. Brown said it can be taken off the agenda.
 - i. Schoolyard Enhancement Program – Liz McKinley provides update on Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement Program and they are prioritizing schools that didn't previously win the grant for education, awareness, and future applications. The earliest planting date for this year's recipients will be May 14, 2024 with the exact dates yet to be determined. She is working with school administrators to set the schedule.
 - j. NHTI Student poster – Stacey presented a poster and handout created by NHTI student Miriah King on importance of street trees. Beth will print copies to be handed out at Farmers' Market. Stacey would like to see the poster hung up in City Hall.
 - k. Lighting – Stacey spoke to New England Holiday Light Company to discuss lighting up trees in Downtown and possibly other 'pocket parks' and the library with the hope of securing funding and approval for this coming winter. Stacey is talking with City officials about the ideas, locations, and costs. Work is in the early stages but there is broad support from the Subcommittee. Madi Hendrick suggests reaching out to InTown Concord and Stacey will contact them to discuss the idea.
5. The next meeting is on Friday, May 24, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted Diers and Tom Daigle

To-do list:

Ted Diers will coordinate with Peter Breu to finalize the tree champion award.

Stacey Brown will provide a document of the self-guided tree tour to Stefanie Breton, and then to the subcommittee for final review.

John Regan will reach out to State for nursery tour.