

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Sub-Committee

Minutes of August 22, 2024 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, John Regan, Zib Corell, Steve Winnett, Tom Daigle

Absent: Craig Tufts, Peter Breu, Rick Chormann, Stacey Brown

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Community Development), Jim Major (General Services)

Guests: Liz McKinley (Div. of Forests & Lands), Jo Russavage (UNH Cooperative Extension)

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Minutes of June 28, 2024 .

The minutes of June 28 were unanimously approved with minor corrections and clarifications.

3. Guest introduction – The committee was pleased to welcome Jo Russavage, Urban Forestry and Ecology Extension Field Specialist. She will be serving as a *State Volunteer Coordinator through UNH-CE*, and offered to provide assistance to the subcommittee. She has a long history in the landscape and tree industry.

4. 2025 Paving Schedule – Jim Major reported that letters have gone out to the residents of streets that will be paved in 2025. The letter includes information about the Sustainable Tree Program. The next set of streets that will be paved are N. Main Street (from Kimball Jenkins), Horseshoe Pond, Dolan, Clark and Engel. Beth will send out a highlighted map and copy of the letter to members for discussion at the next meeting

5. Follow ups

- a. Initiative to plant trees on special housing, coop housing, shelter properties – Zib reported that she met with Julie Palmeri at Concord Housing + Redevelopment to discuss tree place at some of their location. Julie identified 4 locations that could receive a total of 11 trees. The next step will be for members of the subcommittee to follow up with potential partners to identify donations and in-kind assistance that could be used to purchase and plant those trees, and to buy other assorted materials such a stakes, mulch and “tree diapers”. Once contact has been made with partners and it appears that resources will be available, Zib and others (maybe include Jo) will meet with Concord Housing to discuss logistics and post planting care and maintenance. The post care is also an opportunity for partnerships.
- b. Tree Champion Award – Tom has scheduled a debrief with the Chamber of Commerce staff to discuss the event in May and to plan for next year’s award.

- c. Farmers' Market updates – Subcommittee members will bring a display and publications to the Farmers' Market on two Saturdays in September. Tom volunteered for 9/21 and John volunteered for 9/28.
 - d. Self-guided tree tour brochure – Stefanie and Beth have the materials from Stacey Brown and are working on edits. Beth reported on behalf of Stacey that there she is hosting a tree tour with Bob Pollock at the September 1st Friday event downtown.
 - e. Property owner outreach for tree planting – This was covered under item a.
6. New Business
- a. Invasive vines on trees - Steve Winnett brought up the issue that invasive vines are killing many mature trees around the city. He noted a pine tree next to the Holiday Inn that is suffering. The discussion noted that most of the trees that are dying are on DOT or private lands. This brought up the bigger issue of maintenance of mature trees. Beth reported that a workshop was held a few years ago on this subject through the Parks Department, and there should be educational materials from that event that we can use to host another similar event. The committee decided to pursue outreach to landowners about invasives and tree maintenance as a first step on this issue. This will be discussed more at an upcoming meeting. Steve will work with others to find materials and plan for an educational event.
 - b. Tree “nutrition label” tags – John and Beth brought up the issue of putting tree information on the Main Street trees to talk about the species, climate impact, and importance of urban trees. Beth/Tom will follow up with InTown Concord to see if they would be interested in partnering on such an effort.
7. Other Business
- a. Strategic report for end of year - This report is due in January for the February City Council Meeting. The report contents will be discussed at the November meeting.
 - b. School Canopy Enhancement – The DNCR Urban Forestry program is going to be offering a grant for schools to plant trees. Liz and John will identify next steps to apply. Also, John will follow up with Unitil for other grant opportunities.
 - c. Concord GreenSpace coordination – Tom will reach out to Concord GreenSpace to make sure that outreach information is aligned with the activities of both that group and the subcommittee.
 - d. Next Meeting Date is set for September 20 at 8 AM.
8. Adjourn – meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted Diers