



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301
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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street
Meeting Minutes
December 27, 2024

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In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers (Chair), John Regan (arrived 8:09), Zib Corell, Craig Tufts, Councilor Stacey Brown (arrived 8:05), Steve Winnett, Rick Chormann (Conservation Commission), Tom Daigle

Absent:

Peter Breu, Liz McKinley, Stefanie Breton, Jim Major

Staff:

Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives of Community Development
Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Diers called the meeting to order at 8:03 A.M.

Adoption of November 22, 2024 Minutes

Mr. Winnett requests an edit to the spelling of his name on the second page of the November 22 minutes. Ms. Corell moved the approval of the November 22, 2024 minutes. Mr. Winnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Paving Site Visit Follow Up

Draft Letter

Ms. Corell drafted a letter and submitted to Ms. Fenstermacher for review.

List of Trees

Ms. Fenstermacher submitted a list of potential tree locations to Ryan Rambeau for review. Mr. Rambeau felt twelve locations were attainable. Ms. Fenstermacher will update the list and the subcommittee can review both the list and letter at the January meeting.

1 **Establishing Reach-Out Committee**

2 Reach-out committee will be established at the January meeting after the updated list and letter have
3 been review.

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5 **Annual Report**

6 Mr. Diers distributed a draft annual report to the committee. Mr. Diers recommends review,
7 comments, and edits be completed for approval at the January 2025 meeting. Once approved, the
8 annual report will be submitted to the City Council in February.

9 Discussion ensued about adding subcommittee members, placing policy in front and create a brief
10 history on the commission of the tree subcommittee, loss of trees in the urban center resulting in the
11 need to increase planting around the City, list areas by ward, notating the sustainable tree program is
12 a General Services program, Tree Champion Award, and targeting local organizations rather than
13 specific entities. Mr. Diers will make edits and will forward to Ms. Fenstermacher to distribute for
14 final review.

15 Mr. Daigle motioned to conditionally approve the annual report subject to edits submitted by
16 subcommittee members. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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18 **FOLLOW UPS**

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20 **Initiative to plant trees on special housing, coop housing, shelter properties**

21 Ms. Corell reported that she and Chair Diers met to discuss working with Brochu Nursery and
22 Landscaping, the Housing Authority, and potentially Delta Dental. Ms. Corell reached out to the Head
23 of the Housing Authority regarding an agreement to maintain newly planted trees on four potential
24 sites. The Housing Authority stated they do not currently have the ability to provide maintenance of
25 the proposed plantings.

26 Brochu has time constraint for reviewing site to determine appropriate tree species and providing
27 tree stock, and Ms. Corell requests the subcommittee revisit the completed Pleasant Street project as
28 an option.

29 Discussion ensued about donations, maintenance, and volunteers.

30 Ms. Corell will reach out to Executive Director Karen Jantzen with the Coalition to End Homelessness
31 to discuss this proposal and give feedback to Ms. Fenstermacher on possible site visit to the Pleasant
32 Street property to determine tree locations and species.

33

34 **INVASIVE VINES**

35 Mr. Winnett reported he met with Jay Richard, Principal at Rundlett Middle School and toured the
36 grounds. He identified bittersweet vines and discussed how the school could treat the invasive vine
37 without chemicals, and potential student volunteer activities to remove the invasive vines. Mr. Ricard
38 will discuss with the staff and get back to Mr. Winnett.

39 Mr. Winnett reported he received a contact from Steve Duprey for the landscape staff at the new
40 Double Tree Inn property. He will put together information regarding the treatment of invasive
41 plants and distribute to landscape staff.

42 Mr. Winnett reported he met a representative of the Merrimack River Watershed Council. The
43 representative mentioned an idea about adopting a mile of river front to take care of invasive species.

1 Discussion ensued regarding past interactions with the previous representative of Merrimack River
2 Watershed Council, invasive vines on City properties, and current issues with disposing of invasive
3 vines.

4 Mr. Diers suggested Mr. Winnett reach out to Doug Cygan at the NH Department of Agriculture to
5 discuss invasive vines and seek recommendations he may have for the City to dispose of invasive
6 vines.

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8 **Tree Champion Award**

9 Mr. Daigle distributed drafts of purpose, description, and nomination form for the upcoming Tree
10 Champion Award to Mr. Diers, Ms. Fenstermacher, and Ms. Breton for review. The subcommittee will
11 have an opportunity to review for additional edits, if needed.

12 Mr. Daigle expects the nomination form to go live on the Chamber and City websites in February and
13 presentation of award in May.

14 Discussion ensued about the Chamber involvement, selection committee, and advertising.

15 Mr. Daigle confirms prior year's award recipient, two representatives from the Tree Committee, and
16 two from the Chamber should be on the selection committee and results of the selection should be
17 reviewed by the committee.

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19 **Tree "nutrition label" tags**

20 Ms. Fenstermacher reports this is a winter project that the committee will review in the future.

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22 **New Business**

23 Councilor Brown reported an inquiry regarding a request from a resident about avenues for residents
24 to donate money for tree(s). Ms. Fenstermacher reports the City has a Tree Trust Fund that is set up
25 to accept donations, and this fund is currently used to fund the Sustainable Tree Grant Program. In
26 addition, Parks & Recreation has solicited donations in the past for tree planting projects at Rollins
27 Park, and the Golf Course has a Tree Legacy donation program. She further explained that Parks &
28 Recreation has new policy to collect funds for group tree plantings, and not individually memorial
29 tree donations.

30 Discussion ensued about the how to donate to the Tree Trust Fund, replenishment of the Trust, and
31 how the public can learn more about donation opportunities.

32 Ms. Fenstermacher will discuss with Ms. Breton the potential of adding information to the City
33 website for donation opportunities. She will also review the Tree Trust Fund balance and report back
34 to the committee.

35 Next Meeting: Friday January 24, 2025 8:00AM

36 Meeting adjourned at 9:08 A.M.

37 Respectfully Submitted,
38 Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator