



CITY OF CONCORD
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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2025 @ 8:00 AM
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex,
37 Green Street (2nd Floor) - Concord, NH 03301

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers (Chair), John Regan, Councilor Stacey Brown, Craig Tufts, Tom Daigle, Steve Winnett, Peter Breu, Liz McKinley, Rick Chormann

Absent:

Elizabeth Corell

Staff:

Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives of Community Development

Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator

Public:

Jo Russavage, UNH Extension Urban Forestry and Ecology Extension Field Specialist

Chair Diers called the meeting to order at 8:07 A.M.

1. Adoption of September 26, 2025 Minutes

Councilor Brown suggested an edit to reflect Mr. Winnett and Councilor Brown attending the Farmer's Market reference in the September 26, 2025 minutes Farmers Market update. Mr. Regan suggested a grammatical edit in the other business section of the minutes. Mr. Regan moved the approval of the edited September 26, 2025 minutes. Councilor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Diers welcomed Jo Russavage, Urban Forestry and Ecology Extension Field Specialist.

2. Farmers Market

Mr. Regan reported he attended the Farmer's Market. He provided a cut of the bittersweet vine to use as a visual aid at the Farmers Market. He reported some of the important feedback he learned is people want more information regarding disposal of invasive vines and general informational handouts or a QR code would be helpful. Additionally, Mr. Regan reported he provided handout regarding the Sustainable Tree Program brochures and displayed a tree nutrition tag. He reported he had some great discussions with attendees.

Mr. Regan reported he did speak with Suzanne Smith-Myer regarding the DES facility and Chair Diers reported he has responded to Ms. Smith-Myers that DES is still doing construction there and the trees are still there as the finish up where generator pads are going to be placed.

Chair Diers reported the committee will put the Farmer's Market visits on the agenda for the spring.

3. Invasive Vines

1 Chair Diers reported he reached via email to Assistant Commissioner at DOT - David Rodrigue and he was referred to
2 Tim Boodey - Assistant Director of Operation at DOT. Mr. Boodey inquired if there was a particular area of focus
3 regarding invasive vines. Chair Diers reported Mr. Boodey has concerns around using pesticides near the City's gateways
4 due to proximity to the Merrimack River and this may be something to consider when putting together an information
5 summary. Chair Diers will refer Mr. Winnett to Mr. Boodey for them to discuss what DOT's process and regulation are
6 regarding invasive vines.

7 Mr. Regan reported Project SEE has bittersweet just beyond their location at White Farm and this could be a potential
8 project in the future. He had reached out to see if they may be interest but had not heard back.

9 Mr. Winnett reported he invited Ms. Russavage to assist in the committee invasive vine outreach initiative. Ms. Russavage
10 reported this committee may consider targeted visits to the winter farmers market as it gets closer to the season starting as now
11 is a great time to intervene by disconnected the vine from its root source. This will interrupt it pulling nutrients into the root
12 source and delay the growth in the spring. She reported it will be a year-round fight to deter the growth and spread of invasive
13 vines.

14 Ms. Russavage discussed the dead hedge practice as a way to keep and contain cuttings and other debris on site since disposal is
15 a concern with the invasive vine cuttings when burning is not an option. She reported best practice is to do the pruning before
16 the vines begin to set fruit.

17 Mr. Winnett reported he understood it that July was a good time to prune before the vines begin to set fruit because it is
18 also about the time the nutrients are being pulled back down into the roots. Ms. Russavage reported it is a multiphase
19 process to managing invasive and pruning down to the ground should be done multiple times a year.

20 Councilor Brown suggested this committee make a calendar with photos of Concord trees along with reminder tasks
21 such as pruning vines that should be accomplished throughout the year. Chair Diers suggested pulling together the
22 educational material over the winter and put together a step by step for the Concord area.

23 Discussion ensued around proper composting, pruning, root removal, and educational material.

24 **4. Tree Champion Award**

25 Mr. Daigle reported the date has been set for Wednesday October 29 at 3pm and will be held at Havenwood Heritage
26 Heights. This will be a small presentation held at Havenwood Heritage Heights with the residents and staff, the Chamber
27 staff, Concord TV and City staff. Chair Diers has the award and Mr. Daigle will prepare a short speech.

28 **5. Greenspace Coalition**

29 Mr. Regan reported he had a conversation with CG³ (Concord Greenspace) board members Susan Woods and Nicole Fox
30 at the Farmers Market. He reported they discussed this committee providing a write up to put on their Urban Canopy
31 Initiative website page and they agreed. He provided CG³'s Aaron Fracht-Monroe with a write up (with comments from
32 Ms. Fenstermacher) and will meet up with CG³, if necessary, at a later point.

33 **6. Tree Corps**

34 Mr. Regan reported the idea for Tree Corps was generated around gathering volunteers for future community projects
35 like eliminating bittersweet vines or an opportunity to do tree plantings. He did review the Nature Groupie website but
36 this is something he feels would need to have a project in mind before reaching out. Ms. Russavage reported Nature
37 Groupie is a New England focused website that anyone seeking community support can post a nature project they need
38 volunteers for. Chair Diers reported this would be a good opportunity to identify future projects and connect it to Nature
39 Groupie. He further suggested involving Concord TV to video the projects to use a future training and/or outreach
40 material. Ms. Russavage suggested tying in the calendar with Nature Groupie to target specific topics and trainings
41 throughout the year.

42 **7. Fundraising/Grant opportunities**

43 Chair Diers will reach out to the owner of Feathered Friends to discuss the idea of a fundraising opportunity. Mr. Regan
44 reported Feathered Friends would be the sponsor of the fundraiser and they would provide the donation to the
45 Sustainable Tree Fund.

46 **8. Other Business**

1 Chair Diers reported he connected with Conservation Commission Chair Kristine Tardiff and set up a time to get an
2 extended report for the November 12th Conservation Commission meeting. Chair Diers reported he will discuss the
3 upcoming projects regarding invasive vines, sustainable tree program, farmers market, and the Tree Champion award.
4 Mr. Regan suggested using the report from last year and provide an update to that with what the committee has been
5 working on since and also differentiate this committee from the urban forestry work. Chair Diers reported this
6 committee had previously discussed keeping trees in mind when the Conservation Commission reviews plans and look at
7 new development.

8 A brief discussion ensued around urban forestry.

9
10 **8. New Business**

11 Ms. Russavage reported she has a Street Tree Fact Sheet book that she would like to donate to this committee. Councilor
12 Brown borrowed the book.

13 Mr. Chorman reported there is a new exhibit called Rooted: The Story of Trees at the Museum at the White Mountains
14 that focuses on trees with a series of in-person/webinars called Tree Talk starting November 12.

15 Next Meeting: Friday, November 21, 2025 at 8:00AM

16 Mr. Daigle moved the motion to adjourn. Councilor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

17 Meeting adjourned at 9:06 A.M.

18
19 Respectfully Submitted,

20 Stephanie Mckim, Administrative Coordinator