

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 37 Green St

Attendees: Vice-Chair Jeff Lewis, Kevin Porter, Rick Chormann, Mark Coen, Emily Landry, Councilor Michele Horne, Tracey Lesser and Chair Kristine Tardiff

Absent: Katherine Healy, and Alternate Jim Owers

Staff: Kearsten O'Brien, Senior Planner
Krista Tremblay, Administrative Technician III
Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects

Public: Ted Diers (71 Broadway St, Concord)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 6:59 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve meeting minutes from meeting on September 10, 2025 and October 8, 2025

Member Landry moved, Member Porter seconded, to approve the September 10, 2025, with two changes. All in favor. The motion passed.

Vice-Chair Lewis moved, Member Porter seconded, to approve the October 8, 2025, as written. All in favor. The motion passed.

3. New Business

a. 2026 Proposed Meeting Dates

Ms. O'Brien stated the November 2026 meeting date on federal holiday and asked the Commission if they wished to have the meeting date on the Tuesday or Thursday of that week.

The Commission agreed to have the meeting held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

b. Ted Diers- Tree Subcommittee

Ted Diers is the Chair of Tree Subcommittee. Mr. Diers noted Conservation Commission is the organizational parent. Mr. Diers stated the Tree Subcommittee is focused on the urban tree canopy. We are losing the urban tree canopy for a bunch of reasons such as invasives bugs and plants, soil conditions have been altered by both heat and salt on the roads and encroaching utilities. The problem between the street and the sidewalk is the cost to replace the soil and new approaches to have a tree there is expensive. Mr. Diers estimated the cost to be around \$10,000 just on infrastructure before you even put the tree in the ground. Mr. Diers noted they did an inventory a few years ago in a small area of downtown and they lost about 38% of the tree canopy over 20 a year period. They are trying to reverse some of that. The sustainable tree program has been around for quite a while. This is a program where a home owner buys a tree and the city installs it. Mr. Diers stated that program was under subscribed for a while. There was more capacity to put trees in the ground then they had people asking to do so. A few years ago, they created a scholarship program where they help to fund those trees. Since then there is a waiting list. Each year they get about 30 trees through this program. These are all trees that sit

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in the city's right of way. These are replacing that canopy and it is an important program. A tree today is about \$450-\$500 to get a decent size tree in burlap. They try to raise awareness with sessions at the farmers market. They have created a tree champion award and so far, has handed out two awards. The next award will be in the spring of 2026. Mr. Diers asked as budgets get formed for next year they would like to talk to the Conservation Commission.

Chair Tardiff noted they can have a conversation before the next budget cycle. Chair Tardiff noted they did put together a proposal years ago with one to one replacements. If a street tree was removed because of age or disease it was a policy proposal that the policy of the city is to replace the tree or plant another tree.

Ms. Fenstermacher asked on city property or private property.

Chair Tardiff noted it was for trees in the city right of way.

Ms. Fenstermacher noted that is what they are doing with the sustainable tree program.

Mr. Diers would like to put together a budget they can use. Mr. Diers noted he would need to talk to general services, understand contract costs and what is the capacity. Mr. Diers suggested to have a conversation on what could be done and how it can get done.

Chair Tardiff will look to staff for timing and might want to discuss in the winter.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated budgets are due by the end of February and would need a decision by January.

Mr. Diers stated the problem is the installation. Mr. Diers will bring this up at the next Tree Subcommittee meeting to discuss if there were additional dollars and how would those be used. Mr. Diers suggested to have a conversation in December.

4. Reports

a. Trails Subcommittee – Jeff Lewis

- Vice-Chair Lewis stated the Trails Subcommittee are looking at the Winant spur trails through the church official trails.

Mr. Klemarczyk stated the existing carriage road from the original Winant house the trail was allowed to be on the map with people being able to park at the church parking lot.

Vice-Chair Lewis pointed on the map the location of the trail discussing. Vice-Chair Lewis stated staff will need to figure out if there are agreements in place that allow the Conservation Commission to maintain a trail at that location.

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Ms. Fenstermacher stated there is not an agreement.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated the Trail Subcommittee are continuing to update the trail guide maps and verbiage.

- Vice-Chair Lewis there was discussion about the Richards Community Forest kiosk and it had been updated with information requested by the family. Vice-Chair Lewis reported to Barbara Richards to make aware that had happened. The new trail done and blazed. Vice-Chair Lewis asked what is the plan for future trails and there is a bridge out there.

Mr. Klemarczyk showed the location of the new trail and there are two bridges. One bridge is now a hazard and his recommendation is to remove the bridge. The other bridge could be taken apart as there is no need for it in the future.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated Ms. Richards mentions Mike's Trail bridge will need to be repaired and is this in the agenda to be done. Vice-Chair Lewis noted it is not on the agenda to be done but should be on the agenda to be removed because it is a hazard. Vice-Chair Lewis noted they should give Ms. Richards the opportunity to comment on that. The second bridge that is partially not there it makes sense to remove that also.

Mr. Klemarczyk noted that bridge can be cut up.

Vice-Chair Lewis noted the third bridge seems to be fine and there is nothing to do about that one. Vice-Chair Lewis stated Ms. Richards asked what are the long-term plans to connect to Victoria Lane and the sign on Victoria Lane should be replaced does the city do this or do they do it as a family.

Mr. Klemarczyk noted the sign of Victoria Lane is hand painted by the Richards family.

Chair Tardiff noted there has been discussion and concern about the amount of wetlands out there. Chair Tardiff stated whether they want to put more trails and having to bridge over wetlands to get to Victoria Lane is a larger question.

Ms. O'Brien stated the city needs an agreement to say they are done cutting on the property.

Vice-Chair Lewis suggested to say we need confirmation there is no more cutting. However, they still have the right to do it. The Conservation Commission is not doing any future planning until the family releases and then would go through process to see if there can be a connection to Victoria Lane. Thirdly the bridges that are out there in disrepair the Conservation Commission's position is they be removed. Vice-Chair Lewis noted Ms.

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Richards can provide comment on that the Conservation Commission can wait until it is provided. Vice-Chair Lewis will draft an email and before he sends it to Ms. Richards will have Mr. Klemarczyk review the email.

- Mr. Klemarczyk stated in the Forestry Report it talks about the causeway improvement work on the West End Farm Trail is scheduled for early November and that has been completed.
- Vice-Chair Lewis noted the trails at Healy Park came up as a discussion.

Ms. O'Brien stated there was a conversation with David Gill from Concord Parks and Recreation and there are future plans for that area. Mr. Gill is ok with the Trails Subcommittee taking the map out of the trail guide but not going through a formal process of discontinuing the trails because there are future plans. It was a recommendation the Trails Subcommittee take it out of the trails guide and not everybody was in favor of that because they felt it should go through the normal trail process for discontinuance. However, it is not a trail maintained by the Trails Subcommittee.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated it is under the jurisdiction of parks and recreation. If Trails Subcommittee has a concern they can refer it to RPAC. Ms. Fenstermacher stated if the Trails Subcommittee goes through this process and if parks and recreation have money to do something there then, there are two conflicting city documents. It is not the Trails Subcommittee's jurisdiction. Ms. Fenstermacher stated Healy Park was removed from the parks and recreation's website. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested to just to remove it.

Chair Tardiff stated that makes sense to her and consistent with what they have done.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated the official recommendation of the Trails Subcommittee was to remove the map.

Chair Tardiff agrees with the Trail Subcommittee that the map should be removed.

Vice-Chair Lewis made a motion to remove Healy Park from the city website and trail guide until parks and recreation deems it usable. Member Coen seconded. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Forestry
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.
- c. Tree Subcommittee update – Rick Chormann
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.
- d. Local River Advisory Committees
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.

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- e. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.
 - f. City Open Space and Easements
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.
 - g. City Council/Planning Board
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.
5. Old Business
- a. New trail follow-up discussion (Spears Loop Trail, West End Farm Trail, northerly bypass, 16-foot easement trail follow-up discussion) Status of each, any outstanding items remaining to be done for the ones that are completed, permit status, installation of signage, etc.
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.
6. Staff updates on items
- Mr. Klemarczyk provided update for the city forest inventory he has added some more for this month: Horse Hill, Clark Lot, Clinton St Lot and the Town Pond Lot. Mr. Klemarczyk hopes tomorrow to finish the West Locke Rd properties. Mr. Klemarczyk has found several stands of old growth.

Adjournment

Member Coen moved, seconded by Member Landry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. All in favor.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Tremblay

Krista Tremblay

Administrative Technician III