



CITY OF CONCORD
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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 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, Peter Breu, Rick Chormann, Elizabeth Corell

Absent:

Steve Winnett, Liz McKinley

Staff:

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

Kevin Demers, General Services Highway and Utilities Superintendent

Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator

Chair Diers called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M.

1. Adoption of October 23, 2025 Minutes

Mr. Regan moved the approval of the edited October 23, 2025 minutes. Mr. Breu seconded the motion. Mr. Regan suggested a correction to the next meeting date from Thursday to Friday. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Invasive Vines – Education/Outreach

Mr. Winnett was unable to attend. Mr. Regan reported a positive meeting between Mr. Winnett, Stephanie Bowser of Project See and himself. They walked the location and identified bittersweet vines on the property and noted they have built in supporters of the program at Project See to assist in the removal of the vines. Mr. Regan suggested Havenwood Heritage Heights may be a potential site with built in volunteers. Chair Diers reported Linda Ottery at Havenwood Heritage Heights would be the contact person.

3. Tree Champion Award Recap

Chair Diers reported the ceremony for the Tree Champion Award at Havenwood Heritage Heights was successful and well received by staff and residents. The CEO, Mike Palmieri, also gave out awards to people that donated trees for the campus. Mr. Regan reported Chair Diers gave a great speech and Bryanna Marceau, President of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce attended the event and suggested following up with her. Mr. Daigle reported he would follow up with Ms. Marceau. Mr. Regan reported past Tree Champion Award recipient, Jim Milliken, mentioned donating the award to the Chamber and have the Chamber list all the Tree Champion Award recipients. Chair Diers reported he liked the idea of having one plaque to display the names but each recipient should keep their award.

4. Greenspace Coalition

Mr. Regan reported he provided CG³'s Aaron Fracht-Monroe with a write up (with comments from Ms. Fenstermacher) and CG³ (Concord Greenspace) updated their Urban Canopy Initiative website page.

1 **5. Tree Corps**

2 Mr. Regan reported the idea for Tree Corps was generated around gathering volunteers for future community projects
3 like eliminating bittersweet vines at Project See or Havenwood Heritage Heights and it could be promoted on sites like
4 the Nature Groupie website. Councilor Brown has not reached out to Nature Groupie yet but did connect with Ms.
5 Russavage regarding tying in a calendar with Nature Groupie to target specific topics and trainings throughout the year
6 and Ms. Russavage reported back that she shared it with a student that will take on this idea.

7 **6. Fundraising/Grant opportunities**

8 Mr. Regan reported there is nothing available at this time for federal grants. Ms. Fenstermacher reported Unutil typically
9 reaches out to her after the new year for tree donations. She further reported it would be a great idea to identify
10 locations to plant these trees ahead of time. Mr. Regan reported Unutil typically donates 10 trees through the Arbor Day
11 foundation.

12 Chair Diers reported he has a meeting scheduled with the owner of Feathered Friends to discuss the idea of a
13 fundraising opportunity.

14
15 **7. Report to Conservation Commission**

16 Chair Diers reported he attended the November 12th Conservation Commission meeting. He discussed this committee's
17 projects regarding invasive vines, sustainable tree program, farmers market, and the Tree Champion award. Chair Diers
18 reported the conversations went well regarding those subjects. The Conservation Commission went on to discuss
19 upcoming budgets and budget requests. Chair Diers reported three budget items that this committee discussed for
20 budget request consideration:

- 21 1) Increasing the Tree Scholarships fund for the Sustainable Tree Program.
22 2) Contractor assistance for tree installation to support additional plantings through the Sustainable Tree
23 Program.
24 3) Budgeting for complicated tree plantings that require additional infrastructure.

25 Chair Diers reported complicated tree plantings that required additional infrastructure is a discussion that should be
26 had over the coming year so this committee can coordinate with General Services to identify sites and budget. Mr. Tufts
27 reported this committee should consider reviewing the City's CIPs for upcoming road improvement projects. He
28 reported McKee Square is a big project in the CIP and perhaps funding could be side aside to plant trees. Chair Diers
29 reported this is an item he would like to add to a future agenda.

30 Chair Diers reported to put a request in to the Conservation Commission for the Sustainable Tree Program with
31 additional contractor installation support, this committee needs to analyze the numbers to submit the budget request.
32 Mr. Daigle inquired what the balance is in the Urban Tree Trust fund. Ms. Fenstermacher reported a balance of
33 approximately \$14,000 in the trust and approximately \$5,500 is available in the tree project account for the Sustainable
34 Tree Program. Ms. Fenstermacher reported it is not in this committee's purview to request a budget for contractor
35 support as that is a policy decision falling under General Services. General Services could decide it has capacity to plant
36 additional trees and request this committee support a budget request at that time.

37 A brief discussion around limitations on city staff, policy, additional plantings, infrastructure to support plantings,
38 annual report, and future CIP projects the tree project fund could support.

39 Chair Diers reported he would submit a budget request to the Conservation Commission of \$20,000 for the tree project
40 account for additional plantings and complicated infrastructure sites and this committee will further support the fund by
41 seeking fundraising opportunities.

42 Councilor Brown requested this committee's consideration to connect with City Councilors after identifying CIP and
43 before budget approval to ensure this committee's desires are heard.

44 **8. Other Business**

45 Next Meeting: Friday, December 19, 2025
46

1 **9. New Business**

2 None

3 A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Daigle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Regan. The motion passed by unanimous
4 voice vote.

5 Meeting adjourned at 8:52 A.M.

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7 Respectfully Submitted,

8 Stephanie Mckim, Administrative Coordinator