CITY OF CONCORD

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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2026 @ 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 (Arrived 8:11), Craig Tufts, Tom Daigle, Steve Winnett, Peter Breu, Rick Chormann, Elizabeth Corell

Absent: Liz McKinley

Staff:

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

Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator

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

1. **Adoption of December 19, 2025 Minutes**

   Ms. Corell moved the approval of the December 19, 2025 minutes as written. Mr. Tufts seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. **2026 Committee Goals/ Annual Report**

   Chair Diers provided a review of 2019 Tree Subcommittee goals and recommended updating for 2026 and focusing on refining what this committee is already working on successfully. He suggested a goal with invasive vine outreach would be to focus in on the invasive vine fact sheet, and getting a pilot off the ground. Chair Diers suggested another goal this committee should focus on is further developing the sustainable tree program and identifying potential participants for future tree locations. He suggested the Farmer's Market was a great opportunity to educate and conduct outreach in the community for this committee's initiatives, and should continue to be a goal to focus on. He further reported the Tree Champion award has had two great events and it has contributed to raising the profile of the tree canopy in the City and it should continue to be a priority for this committee. Chair Diers further reported the focus should continue on refreshing the tree fund. He recommends continuing to work with City staff to assist in tree infrastructure throughout City projects. These goals will be put into a reference document for the committee and then added to the meeting agenda for reference.

   A brief discussion ensued around tree infrastructure and urban canopy, support of the sustainable tree program, utility tree trimming/removals, and connecting with outside organizations to raise funds. Chair Diers will finalize the 2026 Tree Subcommittee Goals for the February meeting. Mr. Regan requested that a point person on the subcommittee be assigned to each goal.

3. **Annual Report**

   Chair Diers reported an annual report has been drafted and will be submitted to City Council March meeting along with a request to transfer funds from the Urban Tree Trust Fund.

4. **Follow up**

a. Opportunities to collaborate with Havenwood Heritage Heights

Mr. Regan reported he had been in contact with CEO of Havenwood Heritage Heights (HHH) Michael Palmieri to learn how their Earth Day tree donation program was organized, and how the invasive vine removal program worked. In addition, they discussed possibility of utilizing volunteers of HHH for future project for invasive vine removals or new tree plantings. He reported awareness of Bittersweet vines at HHH were raised by a resident and Mr. Palmieri and it appears as though he outsourced removal and Mr. Regan would like to follow up to learn more about the removal of the invasive vines.

b. Invasive Vines – Education/Outreach

Mr. Winnett reported that he and Chair Diers met to discuss invasive vines. He also spoke with Mark Feigl with Merrimack River Water Shed Council whom expressed interest in working with the Tree Subcommittee to utilize grant funds to remove invasive vines. Mr. Feigl reported he has access to tools for volunteers to utilize to remove vines and was interested in looking at potential sites. Mr. Winnett and Chair Diers had originally discussed piloting known locations such as Project See or HHH; however, HHH appears to have removed the vines and has their own process. He will follow up with Mr. Feigl at a later point to discuss future sites and proper disposal of vines.

Mr. Winnett reported he is developing an invasive vine calendar and potential messages for fact sheets to hand out at the Farmers' Market.

Ms. Fenstermacher suggested Mr. Winnett attend a Conservation Commission meeting to learn more about what they are working on.

Chair Diers reported having a very solid fact sheet on how to identify and remove invasive vines should be the priority so it is available when meeting with the community and committee partners and then work on the calendar. Councilor Brown volunteered to assist Mr. Winnett in the creation of the fact sheet and calendar before May.

c. Fundraising/Grant opportunities

Chair Diers reported he met with the owner of Feathered Friends (FF) Tucker Jadczak to discuss the idea of a fundraising opportunity. Mr. Jadczak would like to participate in a fundraiser by launching a tree beer in the Spring and they will donate a dollar per beer of that batch. Mr. Jadczak suggested a launch party in the Spring combined with trivia night and raffles. Chair Diers reported this will be on the February agenda to discuss further.

Mr. Regan reported Ms. Fenstermacher will pursue the tree donation from Unitil. He also reported the State's schoolyard canopy tree planting program continues to be is another option for a grant opportunity.

6. New Business

a. Tree Champion Award 2026

Mr. Daigle reported he will be meeting with the local Chamber of Commerce to discuss. The media materials from the previous award will be updated along with the nomination form. He would like have the nomination form out late March/early April and leave it open for 6 weeks for nominations and review. The winner will be selected and an award ceremony would likely be for May.

7. Other Business

Chair Diers reported he has been Chair for the past seven years and he would like the committee members to consider a new chair. He would like to remain on the subcommittee as a regular member.

8. Next Meeting Date

February 20, 2026 at 8 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Regan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corell. The motion passed by unanimous voice

vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie McKim

Administrative Coordinator - Development