CITY OF CONCORD

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41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301

(603) 225-8570

Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 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, Craig Tufts, Tom Daigle, Steve Winnett, Rick Chormann, Elizabeth Corell

Absent: Peter Breu

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

Chair Diers called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

1. **Adoption of January 23, 2026 Minutes**

   Ms. Corell moved the approval of the January 23, 2026, minutes as written. Mr. Regan seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

   Chair Diers reported that he did not have an opportunity to create a tracking document for the goals. The Subcommittee reviewed the goals that were listed in the Annual Report:

   - Invasive species
   - 10 trees in 10 locations with the Unitil donation
   - Farmers market
   - Tree Champion

   For the next meeting, Chair Diers will put these goals into a reference document for the subcommittee.

3. **Annual Report – April 13th Council hearing**

   Chair Diers will present as part of the public hearing to appropriate funds from the Tree Trust Fund. Ms. Fenstermacher will send the Annual Report to members, but noted it also linked in the March Council meeting.

4. **Tree Champion**

   Mr. Daigle reported that the Tree Champion nomination will launch March 31st through the City and the Chamber websites. The selection committee will consist of himself, Ms. Fenstermacher, Mr. Regan, and former Tree Champions Jim Milliken and Michael Palmieri. We still need to identify a venue and date to present the award.

5. **Follow up**

   a. **Invasive Vines** – Mr. Winnett passed out a draft of the information flyer he created with input from other subcommittee members and Jo Russavage from UNH Extension. He also working on a calendar. The one outstanding item on the handout is to get clarification on disposal. Mr. Regan reported that the December 2025 Factsheet stated that invasive vegetation can be disposed of as hazardous waste. Mr. Regan followed up with Councilor Brent Todd and suggested he attend a Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting to discuss. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she will follow up with Adam Clark, Administration Division Manager in General Services Department for more information from Casella and WinWaste on this issue.

In addition, Mr. Winnett met with Mark Fiegl from Merrimack River Watershed Council, who has lots of ideas for invasive removal projects. Mr. Fiegl has access to a trailer of tools, and is awaiting word from the subcommittee to help with an event. Mr. Winnett suggested that the first 2 projects for a community event should be at Project SEE and Havenwood Heritage Heights (HHH) due to the interest already expressed by these organizations.

b. Opportunities to collaborate with Havenwood Heritage Heights

Mr. Regan has corresponded with Mr. Palmieri from HHH. Mr. Palmieri invited the tree subcommittee members to their upcoming Earth Day event, which includes a tree planting on their campus. Mr. Regan will attend. Ms. Fenstermacher will forward the information.

c. Fundraising/Grant opportunities

Mr. Regan reported that Concord HS has applied for the Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement grant again. Ms. Fenstermacher reported that she received notice from Unitil to select 10 free trees through their tree donation program. She will order the trees and send the list to the Subcommittee so members can start outreach to find tree locations. Ms. Fenstermacher reported that she, Mr. Regan, and Liz McKinley met with staff from the Woodside School, who had requested a tree through the Schoolyard Canopy program, but were not eligible. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested this would be an opportunity for the Unitil tree donation program. Woodside School is excited about the opportunity and will provide tree care and can get volunteers to help with the planting.

6. New Business

a. Arbor Day/Earth Day Tree Planting 2026

Ms. Fenstermacher reported that 2 trees will be planted at Rollins Park on Wednesday, April 22nd at 10 am.

7. Other Business

a. Chair Election

Chair Diers reiterated his desire to step down as the Chair. Mr. Regan nominated Tom Daigle for Chair. Ms. Corell seconded. Mr. Daigle agreed to take on the role. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to elect Mr. Daigle as the new Chair.

Mr. Regan nominated Mr. Tufts as Vice Chair, Ms. Corell seconded. Mr. Tufts agreed to take on the role. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to elect Mr. Tufts as the new Vice Chair.

8. Next Meeting Date

April 17, 2026 at 8 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Brown. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daigle. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fenstermacher