CITY OF CONCORD

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41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301

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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2026 @ 8:00 AM

Council Chambers, City Hall Annex,

37 Green Street (2nd Floor) - Concord, NH 03301

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Tom Daigle (Chair), Craig Tufts (Vice Chair), Peter Breu, Elizabeth Corell, John Regan, Stacey Brown (arrived 8:09), Steve Winnett

Absent: Rick Chormann, Ted Diers

Guests: Jo Russavage, UNH Cooperative Extension; Liz McKinley, Community Forester; Brooke Gauthier, resident

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives of Community Development; Danielle Melius UNH Sustainability Fellow

Chair Daigle called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

1. **Adoption of May 22, 2026 Minutes**

   Mr. Regan moved the approval of the April 17, 2026, minutes as written. Ms. Corell seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. **UNH Sustainability Fellow – Tree Canopy Assessment project**

   Ms. Fenstermacher introduced Danielle Melius, the City's UNH Sustainability Fellow for the summer. Ms. Melius provided a summary of the methodology for the city-wide assessment utilizing aerial photography, iTree, and GIS. She will also work with Bob Pollock to map and document his tree research into sanctioned tree tours. Discussion around what the Tree subcommittee would be interested in seeing included in her work. Members mentioned improved education, neighborhood case studies specifically focusing on street trees, and looking at impacts of utilities clearing trees. Ms. Melius will attend the July meeting to provide updates on her work.

3. **2026 Committee Goals:**

   a. Tree Champion 2026

      Chair Daigle reported that Bob Pollock was awarded the Tree Champion award during the TREE-via event at Feathered Friends on June 17th. The event was very well attended, and Bree Marceau, President of Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce said a few words. General consensus is that this is a great venue for future Tree Champion Awards. Raffle prizes were donated by Mr. Breu (carved wood products from the state house lawn Norway maple), Black Forest Nursery (Mr. Regan procured), and Ms. Russavage (tree books). The raffle netted $250 cash. Still waiting for totals from Feathered Friends for additional proceeds.

   b. Unitil Tree Donation

      Ms. Daigle has one tree left; Ms. Fenstermacher has a taker on Pembroke Road. Ms. Corell was able to find homes for the trees she had. Discussion about the process for next year since finding homes for 10 trees proved more difficult than anticipated. Will revisit in January/February.

   c. Invasive Vines and Farmers Market

Mr. Winnett has materials about invasive vines and will plan to attend the July 4th market. Mr. Daigle will print additional copies. Ms. Fenstermacher will follow up with Stefanie Breton to get the webpage updated with the invasives information prior to the 4th.

Mr. Winnett suggested working with Mark Feigl with the Merrimack River Watershed Council to sponsor invasives removal events, like the recent event at Healy Park.

4. Follow up

a. Opportunities to collaborate with Havenwood Heritage Heights (HHH)

Nothing new to report.

b. Fundraising/Grant opportunities

Christa McAuliffe School is a recipient of a tree from the Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement program. The tree will be planted in the fall. Mr. Regan will follow up with Unitil in August regarding a donation. Three trees were planted at Woodside School from the Unitil trees.

6. New Business

a. Ms. Russavage provided additional information regarding an event with forester and author Ethan Tapper (*How to Love a Forest and soon-to-be-published The Forest Year: Finding Hope in a World Worth Saving*). The event will be on October 24th in Concord. It could be a ticketed event and include a 'walk and talk' at one of the City's properties. She suggested using Ms. Melius' research to identify a good property to walk. Will be added as an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting.

b. Ms. Corell reported that she reached out to the City Arborist, and he mentioned to her that he could use more Sustainable Tree program lawn signs.

c. Brooke Gauthier was introduced, she is a resident of Concord interested in joining the subcommittee. She has a background in forestry.

7. Next Meeting Date

Thursday July 23, 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 9:07 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fenstermacher