CITY OF CONCORD

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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2026 @ 8:00 AM - DRAFT

Citywide Community Center

14 Canterbury Road, Concord, NH 03301

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Tom Daigle (Chair), Elizabeth Corell, John Regan, Ted Diers, Steve Winnett, Brooke Gauthier

Absent: Rick Chormann, Craig Tufts (Vice Chair), Peter Breu, Stacey Brown

Guests: Liz McKinley, Community Forester

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 8:07 A.M.

1. **Adoption of June 26, 2026 Minutes**

   Mr. Regan moved the approval of the June 26, 2026, minutes as written. Ms. Corell seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote, with Mr. Diers abstaining.

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

   Danielle Melius, the City's UNH Sustainability Fellow for the summer provided an update of her work on the city-wide tree canopy assessment project. She walked through the maps and available information and asked for feedback on what would be most helpful for the Tree subcommittee to include in the final product. The Committee summarized that they would prioritize 3 main questions: total loss/gain over the past decade organized by Ward; temperature changes over time (heat island); and possible planting areas. Ms. Melius will also include mapping information that shows which areas of the City are more susceptible to the 3 most prolific invasive species. The information will be on a dashboard on the City webpage. Ms. Melius will be presenting her final project at the August 10th City Council meeting.

3. **October 24th Ethan Tapper event**

   Jo Russavage was unable to attend, but provided an email of information that was shared by Ms. McKinley regarding the October 24th 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*).

   Morning event: 9:30-11:30 am– walk-and-talk event at a TBD suitable urban forest location, max. 40 people.

   Afternoon Event: 1:30-3:30 pm – event in a local venue with 100-200 people. Public forum with the speaker.

   Evening: Book event at Gibson's Bookstore at 6:30 pm, details to follow.

   Collaboration with the Forest Society was discussed as well as looking at the forest/trails at their Conservation Center was discussed as a possible venue for the morning event.

   Will be added as an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting to further flush out the ideas. Chair Daigle will follow up with Ms. Russavage prior to the next meeting.

4. **2026 Committee Goals:**

   a. Invasive Vines and Farmers Market

Mr. Winnett reported that he has engaged a lot of people during the past 3 weekends, keeping busy talking the entire time.

b. Pollinator Festival – Rollins Park, 8/1 @10 am – 12:30 pm

Ms. Fenstermacher announced that the 2nd annual Pollinator Festival will be held on August 1st at Rollins Park, and the organizers were interested in having members of the Tree Subcommittee set up a table with information on invasive vines. Mr. Winnett and Chair Daigle will attend.

5. Follow up

a. Opportunities to collaborate

Mr. Regan reported that Project SEE is coordinating volunteers to water the new trees on their property.

b. Fundraising/Grant opportunities

Mr. Diers reported that a total of $675 was raised at the Tree-via event hosted by Feather Friends. The money was raised through raffle ticket sales and proceeds from total sales. All agreed it was a great event and there will be another in the future.

6. New Business

a. Chair Daigle mentioned that he would like to add two agenda items for the next meeting addressing appropriate lines of communication with staff, and codifying the policy around the use of Bob Pollock's tree tour information.

7. Next Meeting Date

Friday August 21, 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 9:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fenstermacher