CITY OF CONCORD

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41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301

(603) 225-8570

Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2026 @ 8:00 AM

Council Chambers

37 Green Street, Concord, NH 03301

In Attendance:

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

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

Guests: Jo Russavage, UNH Cooperative Extension

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

Chair Daigle called the meeting to order at 8:06 A.M.

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

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

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

Ms. Russavage provided an update on the planning for 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*). The evening event at Gibson's Bookstore is already organized by Gibson's and no additional planning is required. She has not been successful in securing a location for the daytime event.

Collaboration with the Forest Society and Audubon was discussed as well as looking at the forest/trails as a possible venue. Ms. Russavage indicated that the greatest help from this committee is to help identify a site for the walk, and to reach out to get the word out. The City Auditorium and Community Center were discussed as potential venues; however, Ms. Fenstermacher confirmed during the meeting that both spaces were already booked for that date.

Mr. Regan offered to reach out to Dave Anderson at the Forest Society.

This item will be added as an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting to get the word out.

3. **Committee Procedures**

Chair Daigle reminding committee members that members should not be individually reaching out to City Staff, and all lines of communication with City Staff should be through Ms. Fenstermacher. Mr. Winnett asked if he could continue to correspond directly with Parks and Recreation Director David Gill regarding invasive clean-up projects at Parks. Ms. Fenstermacher confirmed that yes, this was appropriate since he was already in discussions with Mr. Gill, who requested Mr. Winnett reach out to him directly.

4. **Bob Pollock Tree Tour Policy**

Chair Daigle summarized previous discussions around the use of Bob Pollock's research and tour information. Bob would like to pass this information on to the City only to be used for Tree subcommittee tours, and not for individuals to use his information for their own tours. He is still able to lead tours, he requests an honorarium. There was discussion about getting sponsors for future tours to raise funds to pay Mr. Pollock. Ms. Fenstermacher showed a preview of the online Storymap created by the UNH Fellow. This includes the Blossom Hill tour, State House tour, and some other

historic trees in the downtown area. Mr. Pollock needs to review and approve before the online tour goes live on the City website.

There was discussion about using the tours to share messaging around the loss of tree canopy. In addition, the walking and online tours could be a source for soliciting donations to the Tree Trust Fund.

This item will remain on the agenda for September, and the Committee will consider a motion to adopt the policy.

5. Follow up

a. Invasive Vines and Farmers Market

Mr. Winnett reported that he continues to engage lots of people during the farmers' market, and will be returning again this Saturday.

b. Opportunities to collaborate

Chair Daigle reported that he would like to re-engage with the Chamber of Commerce; he will reach out. Mr. Regan reported that Project SEE has coordinating volunteers to water the new trees on their property.

c. Fundraising/Grant opportunities

Mr. Regan reported that he reached out to Unitil regarding a grant that they have donated in the past. No update from Unitil yet.

d. UNH Sustainability Fellow Project – Tree Canopy Assessment

Ms. Fenstermacher shared the online dashboard created by Danielle Melius; this presentation was previously shared at the August 10th City Council meeting. She reported that once the data files are transferred from the UNH server to the City server, the dashboard will be published on the City website. Subcommittee members expressed admiration for Ms. Melius' hard work.

6. New Business

a. Ms. Fenstermacher shared an update on the 2026 Sustainable Tree Program from City Arborist Ryan Rambeau: 34 trees planted; 20-22 trees already on the list for 2027, with more expected. Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the best thing the Subcommittee can do for this program is to continue to raise funds so the 50/50 grant can continue.

7. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday September 22, 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 9:11 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fenstermacher