CITY OF CONCORD

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Conservation Commission Tree Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026 @ 8:00 AM

Council Chambers

37 Green Street, Concord, NH

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Tom Daigle (Chair), Craig Tufts (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Corell, John Regan, Ted Diers, Steve Winnett, Brooke Gauthier, Rick Chormann, Peter Breu, Stacey Brown

Absent: none

Guests: Liz McKinley, DNCR; 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 8:04 A.M.

1. **Adoption of August 21, 2026 Minutes**

   Mr. Regan moved the approval of the August 21, 2026, minutes as written. Mr. Chormann 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. The morning walk at the Forest Society Conservation Center trails on Portsmouth Street will be open only the UNH Master Gardeners, Natural Resource Stewards, with 10 spaces reserved for the Tree subcommittee. The afternoon talk will be held at the Forest Society from 1:30 to 3:30, tickets were set at $10 to cover Mr. Tapper's fees and UNH administration fees. Ms. Russavage suggested that an option can be added to give people the opportunity to donate to the City's tree trust fund. Subcommittee members agreed this is a great option. She will send the updated registration links and UNH logo for the City to create the flyer. The registration link for the morning session will be sent to the Subcommittee.

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. Ms. Fenstermacher will send information to members about the RSA 91-A right to know requirements.

4. **Bob Pollock Tree Tour Policy**

   Chair Daigle summarized previous discussions around the use of Bob Pollock's research and tour information. Ms. Gauthier has expressed interest in leading the effort on the tours. Mr. Diers suggested picking 2-4 dates per year, speaking with Mr. Pollock to secure the dates, and then solicit sponsorships to cover the fee. Ms. Brown suggested that the City give Mr. Pollock $2000-$3000 to buy his material outright so that the City can use the information as we want. Mr. Regan stated that Mr. Pollock was not looking for too much money, he just wanted to make sure that the City was only presented through City events, and not individuals using his information. It does not need to be overcomplicated.

   This item will remain on the agenda for October.

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. Mr. Winnett and Mr. Diers planned an event with the owner of Hoptimystic Brewery in Bow for Saturday, September 26th. With limited time to get the word out, and with concern expressed about hosting an event on private property in another municipality, it was decided that the event should be considered for another date, and perhaps a location on city of Concord property. Mr. Diers expressed that the reasoning behind the location selected was to create an event that would easily transition into a social gathering. The subcommittee will work on planning event during the Fall to be held in the Spring. Ms. Russavage suggested using the calendar that was created to guide the timing for the event.

Mr. Winnett had questions about what to do with the list of emails he has been collecting from people at the Farmer's Market, and whether he can email about events from his personal account. Potential partnerships with Merrimack River Watershed Council were discussed as a partner to plan and organize the events and manage volunteers.

b. Opportunities to collaborate

Subcommittee members brainstormed ideas for potential partnerships to help with events. The mission of the Tree Subcommittee was discussed to remind members that the purpose of the committee is to help with education and outreach, and not to manage volunteers. Partner organizations can help with that, as well as help with fundraising.

c. Fundraising/Grant opportunities

Mr. Regan reported that he reached out to Unitil regarding a grant that they have donated in the past and they will be gifting $150 to the City.

6. New Business

a. None

7. Next Meeting Date

Thursday October 22, 2026 at 8 a.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fenstermacher