

City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Sub-Committee

Minutes of January 9, 2020 Meeting

Meeting was convened at 8:00 am at City Hall, 41 Green Street

In attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers, Zib Corell, Craig Tufts, Peter Breu

Subcommittee Members Absent: Guy Petell, Heidi Lemay

Conservation Commission Members: Rick Chormann, Kris Tardiff

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher (Planning), Chip Chesley (GSD), Jim Major (GSD), Jeff Hoadley (GSD)

Others: Cory Keeffe (State Community Forester) John Regan (resident/volunteer) Jack Shields (resident) Jo Shields (resident)

1. Call to Order.

Ted called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00

2. Minutes of December 6, 2019 meeting

The minutes of December 6 were approved unanimously.

3. Introductions

There being a few new faces at the meeting, the group did a round of introductions. Guests Jack and Jo Shields introduced themselves and their interest in the committee's work. The group welcomed them to the meeting and to participate in tree committee activities.

Community Forester Cory Keeffe noted that this will be his last meeting. He told the group he will be starting a new job with Eversource. He said he had a great time working with the group and wished us luck. The group thanked Cory for his work with the committee and wished him well on his new position.

4. Outreach to Committees and Boards

Ted and Zib reported that they went to the January Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting to discuss trees. It was quick and friendly. They put the issue and importance of trees on the ZBA's radar and noted variances for landscaping have been granted in the past. It was agreed that the friendly outreach was worthwhile.

It was agreed that the Planning Board would be the next on the priority list of boards to reach out to. Beth noted that the January 15th Planning Board meeting is anticipated to be light. Beth will see about getting the Tree Committee on the agenda for that meeting. Ted, Peter, and John agreed

to attend. It was noted that we should mention the committee's efforts to enforce the tree planting/landscaping plans (through Code Enforcement) that the Planning Board approves.

5. Tree Inventory

The group recapped the thinking that we should do a very high-level (low detail) tree inventory so that we can compare current tree canopy from that of the time of the last survey approximately 20 years ago. The primary data collected will be to review trees from the past inventory and to find out whether that tree is still there. This is an important interim step before a full tree inventory is conducted. This volunteer inventory will:

1. Tell us if a tree from the past inventory is still there or not (or was replaced)
2. Will identify any new trees
3. Identify locations that are obvious candidates for new trees (nominations for later follow-up)

A large map of the downtown area where tree data was collected about 20 years ago was present. The group divided the area into 9 sections, one section for each person who volunteered to participate in the inventory.

Craig will produce maps of the areas to be collected, along with a spreadsheet for data collection/data entry. Craig will share this with Beth to finalize it and send it out to the volunteers with instructions. A goal to have the inventory completed in time for the next meeting was discussed, but it was questioned that it may take longer.

There was discussion that the City still plans to seek professional help to do a proper inventory. The plan is to try to tap DES funding to pay for labor for the inventory. The city would pay for the software. Ted offered to share Dover's application for funds for its tree inventory.

6. Other Business

It was noted that spring will arrive quickly and that we may want to start planning events. The group decided we should do another tree planting and training session. Cory would not be available to do it, AJ Dupere may be overburdened with other work in Cory's absence. Ryan Rambeau may be able to do a training. The group agreed planting and pruning being the most important aspects of the training/tree planting. As for a timeframe, a Tuesday through Thursday evening in mid to late April would be a good idea.

It was also discussed that there could be an educational element discussing tree pests. It was noted the Ron Klemarczyk may be interested in doing this. Tim Fleury was also considered.

Arbor Day is April 24th.

7. Next Meeting: Friday February 14 at 8 am City Hall

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts, Secretary

General To-Do List

Craig would prepare maps and spreadsheets for the tree inventory.

Beth would help review/prepare/print maps and materials for the tree inventory

Beth would get the Tree Committee on the Planning Board agenda and invite Ted, John, and Peter

Ted would share with Beth the City of Dover's grant application for tree inventory funding

Jim or Chip would look into GSD staff availability for a spring tree planting and training event

DRAFT