

**City of Concord
Conservation Commission
Tree Subcommittee**

Minutes of January 26, 2024 Meeting
Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 43 Green Street

In Attendance:

Subcommittee Members: Ted Diers (Chair), John Regan, Zib Corell, Craig Tufts, Stacey Brown, Peter Breu, Tom Daigle

Absent: Liz McKinley, Rick Chormann

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner (Planning), Jim Major (General Services)

Guest: Tim Blagden (Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail)

1. Call to Order.

Ted called to order at 8:07 a.m.

2. Minutes of December 21, 2023

The minutes of December 21, 2023 were unanimously approved.

3. Guest Tim Blagden from the Friends of the Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail

Tim introduced himself and the plans for the Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. The group thanked him for coming to share with the subcommittee.

4. Elect Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

Discussion ensued over the current slate and nominations for the upcoming term.

Stacey nominated and Zib seconded, a motion for Ted Tiers as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

John nominated, and Stacey seconded, a motion for Zib as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Stacey nominated, and Tom seconded, a motion for Craig as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

New slate:

Ted Diers: Chair

Zib Corell: Vice Chair

Craig Tufts: Secretary

5. Tree Planting and Paving Program

Jim reported that the paving is going to be in an upcoming consent report for City Council. He noted there was a significant change to the program in that Pembroke Road will not be paved this year. This is because of sewer work and water work in the near term at the ends of the road that will require digging up the road. It is not cost effective to pave just a small section in the middle, so the Pembroke Road paving and sidewalk is going to be

reprogrammed for 2026. The tree locations are still on file for Pembroke Road and can be revisited for 2026. Some streets planned for 2025 will be paved this year instead. Airport Road is still planned to be done this year. Jim noted that Old Turnpike Road and Regional Drive may be coming up soon as well.

Jim reviewed the list of possible tree locations for Airport Road. Jim noted that the letter to abutters along Airport Road will be sent out today. It will include information on curb cost sharing as well as information on the Sustainable Tree Program. Jim will share with the subcommittee through AnneMarie the names and addresses of the locations identified for tree planting.

The group discussed cost sharing for any trees, and it was noted that we expect at least a 50% subsidy but could sponsor the full cost depending on the number of trees and the budget.

Discussion ensued on outreach and knocking on doors. Tom agreed to send out a Google doc for committee members to sign up for door knocking.

Jim noted some other paving projects likely in the next season. This work will be done in 2026, not 2025. This includes the corridor from North Main St (from Storrs to Bouton) to Bouton St, from North Main to North State St, from Bouton to Penacook St, and also Storrs St from North Main to the legislative parking garage. He noted Storrs St would only be an overlay but they will be doing sidewalks. This may mean an opportunity for some Silva-cells or other infrastructure that might support tree planting in this urban, downtown area. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at a future meeting and to plan a walk for the spring to seek out locations. It was noted that the south end of Storrs would be paved after the legislative parking garage comes down, most likely after 2026. That location would present additional tree planting opportunities and a transformation of the streetscape.

The committee will aim for May for a walk of Storrs St.

6. Ongoing / Follow Up Items

- a. Meeting with Conservation Commission – Ted reported that he and others met with the CCC. They discussed the tree tours and the option to include them on the City's Conservation Commission website in a similar way to how the trail maps are presented. The committee needs to pull this information together, starting with the downtown tree tour and later going on to the cemetery.

They also discussed tree preservation and tree planting requirements. They agreed that any final recommendations to the City should come through the Conservation Commission but the Tree Subcommittee can do the work investigating options and proposing solutions.

They also discussed the Tree Champion Award.

- b. Tree Champion – Tom and John met twice with the chamber. They plan to present the award at an event on May 14. Ted needs to notify Jim and make sure he can make it. The Chamber is excited. We have two minutes. Tim Sink will introduce Ted, Ted will present the award. They need a tagline and photo. Tom shared some graphics and the subcommittee selected the version with the full tree logo and suggested changing the colors of the words to green and the tree brown. The group agree Ash was the preferred image for the award plaque. Ted will find a vendor to make it.

- c. Tree Tours – See above Conservation Commission discussion. Stacey will take a stab at the tree tour material setup in a similar format to the trail maps. AnneMarie questioned whether trees on private property seen from the public right-of-way can be included on the tree tour and will confirm.
 - d. Review Current Tree Preservation and Planting Requirements – See above meeting with Conservation Commission discussion. AnneMarie has reviewed materials, with information posted online with a link on our agenda. Everyone agreed we should all have a look and be prepared with comments next month.
7. Next Meeting: Friday, February 23, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.
8. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Tufts

To do list:

Aim for a May walk of Storrs St

Tom will send google doc of outreach/door knocking to Airport Rd tree locations

Others will sign up for outreach to Airport Rd

Attend Tree Champion Award presented May 14

Ted will notify awardee

Tom will update the tagline and image for the award to be sent to Chamber

Ted will seek a vendor for the award plaque with the Ash image

Stacey will take a stab at downtown tree tour format similar to trail maps

AnneMarie will investigate tree tours showing trees on private property from public right-of-way

Everyone will look at current tree preservation/planting requirements linked on agenda