

CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue Dover NH
Meeting Date: Monday, January 8, 2023
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Steve Fellows (Vice Chair), Robert Atwood (Secretary), Amy Kramer-Perry, Bruce Batchelder, Abigail Lyon

Absent (Excused): Kristen Murphy, Jason Aube

STAFF PRESENT: Jackson Kaspari – Resilience Manager, Erin Bassegio – Outreach Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was convened at 5:31 PM.

2. ANNUAL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023

The current slate of officers: B. Hunt as Chair, S. Fellows as Vice Chair and R. Atwood as Secretary agreed to continue in their roles. A. Kramer-Perry motioned to nominate. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: 6 yes.

3. CITIZENS' FORUM: No citizens were present to speak during the forum

4. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – December 12, 2022

S. Fellows moved to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes, R. Atwood seconded. Vote: 5 yes and 1 abstention from A. Lyon.

5. OLD BUSINESS: None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. January 10th Meet and Greet

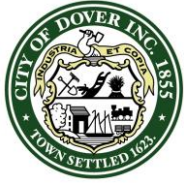
J. Kaspari provided some details on the event noting that invitations were not widely distributed due to space constraints. The Meet and Greet provides a venue for Chairs to convey updates regarding their Board, Committee or Commissions work over the past year. During this year's Meet and Greet E. Bassegio will present information on the update to the Vision Chapter of the Master Plan and J. Kaspari will present a first look at the Citywide Resilience Plan. The Plan will be reviewed by the Planning Board and additionally considered for adoption by the Dover City Council.

B. Five Minutes for Dover's Future – Outreach Coordinator, Erin Bassegio

E. Bassegio: The Vision Chapter of the Master Plan is updated every 10 years. Current work involves reviewing the progress made for the 2023 Vision which was last updated in 2012 and identifying any gaps. We are hoping to have Boards, Committees and Commissions spread the word about opportunities to engage with the Chapter update and potentially participate directly. This time there will be volunteers assigned the roles of Vision Ambassadors. There will be a number of Visioning events. The first is set to be held virtually on February 9th. There is an associated project website: rebrand.ly/DistinctlyDover where folks can respond to "What is your wish for Dover's Future?" and learn more details about the project.

A. Lyon: Have you considered looking to the college student population in Dover for feedback? One idea would be to use the bus system to help convey information.

E. Bassegio: We have not but I appreciate that suggestion.



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7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Review of Correspondence Received from NH Department of Environmental Services

J. Kaspari: Once piece of correspondence to report. Received a notice of an alleged wetlands violation off of Gulf Road. The City was made aware of this through the local zoning complaint process which led to an investigation by Zoning Administrator Kypfer and myself. The complaint alleges that a gravel driveway installed back in 2009 with associated culvert drainage caused a shift to the wetland resource adjacent to it on the same lot. A City driveway permit was issued for the work. The City will cooperate with DES if it requires additional information for the State investigation.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Update from Forest Management Subcommittee

S. Fellows: The Subcommittee met a week after the last Conservation Commission meeting. There are two tracks the Subcommittee has been considering:

(1) The Forest Stewardship Plan that was prepared for the parcels in the Tolend Road Landfill Area. We spoke with Tim Nolin who prepared the Plan and he said that six to nine months of lead time is necessary meaning that the Subcommittee should begin the process in the spring or summer for a winter harvest. The Subcommittee also looked into whether the Smith Well Parcel would be a viable option for a harvest. The lot is much more “harvest ready” due to better access than the parcels off Tolend Road. However, the City will be constructing a water tower on that parcel and we wouldn’t want harvest activities to interfere.

(2) The other track is the CBD Street Tree Plan and looking into implementing those recommendations. The Subcommittee would like to fill the empty planting boxes as a first step but will need to consult with Community Services Director, John Storer. After this the Subcommittee can look at the Ash tree situation. The Subcommittee may ask the Conservation Commission in the future for a funding request related to this. Street trees have to deal with some harsh conditions so due care needs to be exercised during the installation process.

B. Hunt: Would it be worth contracting an arborist to assist the City through this process?

S. Fellows: That is part of a broader discussion the Subcommittee is having. We need to gauge interest and possible funding mechanisms to bring in an arborist.

Some discussion ensued about Dover participating in the Tree City USA program.

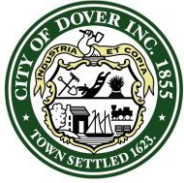
A. Lyon: Interested to hear in the potential of stormwater treatment associated with new tree plantings.

Kaspari brought up the plan to show the locations of interest.

R. Atwood mentioned the planned work for Fifth Street and Grove Street and the potential to lump in additional tree purchases with those trees as that project involves a complete adjustment to the sidewalk infrastructure.

Discussion ensued about various design elements like Silva Cells, stormwater elements etc.

A. Lyon: It might be worth including signage if the design elements help with stormwater.



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B. Hunt: What is the legality of using Conservation Fund money for the purchase of street trees?

J. Kaspari: Will confirm this but I don't foresee any barriers.

S. Fellows: This aligns with the mission of the Conservation Commission.

A. Lyon: It will be important to designate the potential street tree purchase as a distinct project and not establish that all street trees going forward would be funded through the Conservation Fund.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A. Lyon motioned to adjourn. S. Fellows seconded. Vote: 6 yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.