

CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – FOREST MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room** - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Monday, February 6th, 2023
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Fellows (Chair), Rick Schnable, Amy Kramer-Perry

EXCUSED ABSENT: Robert Atwood, Anna Boudreau

STAFF PRESENT: Jackson Kaspari (Resilience Manager), John Storer (Director of Community Services)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 5:45 PM

2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – December 19th, 2022

R. Schnable motioned to approve, A. Kramer-Perry seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor of approving the minutes.

3. FOREST MANAGEMENT UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

J. Kaspari provided an update on the correspondence with the owners of parcel “L”. The offer of paying the assessed value was denied as the owners felt it was too low given the circumstances. The owners are open to an appraisal but there is no guarantee that the appraised value will meet expectations for a sale price. The appraisal would require an expenditure from the Conservation Fund. Kaspari can work with the Purchasing Agent to determine the cost for the appraisal as a next step.

There is no immediate rush for the City to acquire the parcel and it’s possible the owners may change their mind in the future. The Subcommittee deliberated options. Kaspari is to report back on the cost for an appraisal and from there the Subcommittee will determine next steps.

4. CBD STREET TREE UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

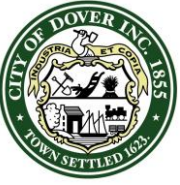
John Storer discussed how the Community Services Department approaches tree installations and maintenance. Currently the bulk of the work is reactive in nature and involves addressing service calls related to City street trees. There was a large volume of recent requests associated with the winter storm. Community Services does have funding in place for new tree installations but has held off for the last couple years due to concerns over the aquifer levels. New plantings require significant amounts of watering and thus, can only plant new trees if water use is not a concern. With the aquifer levels recovering well through the winter it’s possible new trees could be planted in the spring.

The Subcommittee advised on which tree boxes to target based off of the Central Business Street Tree Plan which was used as a reference the last time the City went out to bid for new trees. The goal is to aim for 10 new plantings.

John and the Subcommittee also discussed the benefit that a City Arborist could provide.

Some discussion also commenced regarding the potential for the City to maintain a nursery of trees which would significantly reduce purchasing cost but would involve maintenance. This is another area where an arborist would be essential for appropriate oversight.

Going forward John will ensure that the City is prepared to install new trees if the conditions allow using the CBD Street Tree plan to target the empty boxes first.

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Kaspari mentioned the Miyawaki Forest concept that was brought to him by community member Yulia Rothenberg. The concept involves creating a dense pocket forest with specific plantings that allow the forest to reach maturity in around 30 years. This is very accelerated from a standard forest environment which can take over a century to mature.

There are only about six parking spaces worth of area required. Kaspari is going to find a contact at the SAU to see if the Highschool would like to be involved with this as part of an outdoor education / biology activity. There is benefit from a carbon sequestration standpoint as well.

The Subcommittee is supportive of the concept and is interested to learn more as this idea is further developed.

5. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 17th at 5:30 pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Fellows declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.