



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 3, 2025
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Fellows (Chair), Rick Schnable, Russ Warnock, Robert Atwood

EXCUSED ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Makayla Edgecomb (Conservation Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: John Storer (Director of Community Services), Reid Bickley (Business Development Specialist)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 5:30 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 6, 2025 MEETING

Contingent on the changes discussed, one spelling error and adding the discussion of aesthetics to the prior minutes.

R. Warnock Motioned to approve R. Atwood seconded. Unanimous.

3. CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT STREET TREE UPDATES

S. Fellows briefs on the last forestry meeting. J. Storer confirms the amount of Ash trees in the downtown being 53. A discussion around businesses donating trees was brought up, J. Storer adds that donations would need to go before council. R. Atwood brings up the discussion of using Conservation Commission funds for some of the initiative. R. Warnock explains that the ash trees will be dead within 2 years, and a 5-year plan is not reasonable for the current health of the trees. The committee emphasized the importance of a plan for the dying Ash trees, and concluded that this should be separate from the annual street tree plantings/ maintenance. J. Storer mentions the pedestrian plan and the new proposed lighting plan for the downtown. R. Warnock discusses the possibility for larger tree boxes to replace with larger trees. M. Edgecomb discusses the potential grant opportunity for the development of a plan for the dying Ash trees and the tree replacement along Central Ave. R. Bickley adds that many of the downtown business owners have issues with the current trees covering their signs. M. Edgecomb follows up by mentioning the potential for a charrette that will include the business owners. J. Storer discuss potential funding from a stand-alone Capital Improvement Project once a plan has been executed for the downtown trees. M. Edgecomb reports what is currently in the Conservation Fund. The discussion of what the Conservation Fund is used for is discussed, should it be more than just conserving land, or can it be used for trees? R. Warnock and R. Atwood ask about the potential to volunteer. Doing tree analysis and GIS mapping of the current species downtown.

4. TREE MAINTENANCE

R. Warnock asks about the funds to prune the deceased trees. J. Storer mentions that they still need to be pruned for hazard mitigation.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Committee discussed the Smith Well lot and the previous site walk that was done over the summer. There was also discussion around a harvest. M. Edgecomb is meeting with the project manager for the parcel to get more info and report back.

6. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Checking to see if members can join virtually, if so plan for February 24th, if not alternative date will be selected.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned unanimously.