

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 10, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sean Collins
Doug Bryar
Kevin Dodds
Scott Orzechowski
Jeremy Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Degler
Dale Smith-Kenyon

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 6:03 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

- Minutes of Regular Meeting (March 13, 2024).

D. Bryar moves to accept as submitted. S. Collins seconds
Motion carries 4 - 0 – 1 (K. Dodds abstained)

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resident Raises concern regarding safety of plant growth

S. Collins moves to suspend agenda to hear; K. Dodds seconds.
Motion carries 5-0-0

Ralph Losee, a resident of the Townhouses at Green St (Stillwater Circle and Meadow Way) requests input from the Board regarding reed/grass growth around the pond at the center of the property. He is visiting after the homeowners' association meeting raised concerns about screening of the water and the safety of children playing in the area, noting that last year, a child rode their bike into the pond not realizing it was there due to the thick plant growth around it.

The HOA is looking for guidance on trimming/cutting that could be done. The pond was created as part of the development, and is around 8 feet deep at its center. The HOA documentation doesn't address what's permissible here. The only approach the HOA has discussed is a limited cutting.

S. Orzechowski suggested calling up the plans and discussing based on these. Approaches could be decking, partial cutting, or planting replacement species.

The representative will return to our May meeting where we can discuss together based on the prior plans.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (five minutes per person and subject to closure in interest of time)

No public comment at this meeting.

4. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUESTS - No CUP requests at this meeting

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Land Use & Natural Resources Master Plan Chapter Workshop with Strafford Regional Planning Commission

The community workshop is planned for Thursday, May 2nd at 6PM. Agenda is as follows:

- Sign in
- Breakout sessions
 - Visual preference exercise, asking attendees to indicate their desired appearance standards.
 - Special Places, calling out currently existing locations that have community or historical meaning
- Closing
- Survey

The granular community survey is coming in May; this will have significantly more detail. Outreach ideas were brainstormed.

Next follow-up discussion will be at our May meeting.

B. Application for technical assistance from Taking Action for Wildlife (TAW)

Email forwarded by J. Degler; we can get assistance from TAW with technical projects; this offer is for expert help with technical aspects of upcoming work. Examples include field restoration, trails, streams/ponds, invasives, or wildlife management. Malley Farm is an obvious target project. The Commission discussed and K. Dodds will follow up to obtain assistance with Malley Farm project.

C. Any other new business to come before the Commission.

None at this time

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Review of Rules of Procedure

No concerns with the current document are raised.

J. Rhodes moves to accept in their current form. S. Collins seconds.

Motion carries 5 – 0 – 0

B. Review of the Recommended Native Tree List Proposed Revisions

K. Dodds notes there are exotics on the list and recommends their removal. The Commission discussed a periodic (5 years) reassessment. K. Dodds will forward an edited list (see attachment). The Commission will also look to modify the recommended planting list included in the planning system.

C. Easement monitoring

No Updates at this time.

D. Any Correspondence regarding old business

No updates at this time.

E. MEMBER ITEMS, SUB-COMMITTEE ITEMS, AND REPORTS

i. Wildlife management plan for Lily Pond parcel (Scott Orzechowski)

No updates at this time

ii. Invasives plan sub-committee report (Dale Smith-Kenyon)

No updates at this time

iii. Exploration of formal conservation of Malley Farm city parcel

K. Dodds scheduled a site visit for SELT and Fish & Game; S. Orzechowski met with Mayor Gerding to discuss buffers for the site. SELT and F&G have both expressed interest in the site.

iv. City tree GPS inventory project

D. Bryar and S. Orzechowski discussed cost management approach. The current approach is to focus on more densely populated areas, with a plan to build outward from there. The Commission also discussed the possibility of removing some redundant sidewalks and increasing tree plantings in the cleared area. D. Bryar will follow up with labor estimates, maintenance, and hosting approaches for the outputs.

v. Discussion of tree replacement at Somersworth Plaza

K. Dodds recommended Hawthorne, Winterberry, Maple, Scarlet Oak, Sweet Birch, or Cherry for this location.

vi. Discussion of revision of recommended tree species in the tree ordinance

Item addressed under 6B.

F. Any other old business that may come before the Commission.

None at this time.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

No report this session.

J. Rhodes moves to adjourn, K. Dodds. Motion carries 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary

TREE SPECIES LIST

Proper landscaping and tree planting are critical components of the atmosphere, livability, and ecological quality of a community's urban forest. The tree species listed below have been evaluated for factors such as size, disease and pest resistance, seed or fruit set, and availability. The following list is offered to assist all relevant community personnel in selecting appropriate tree species. These trees have been selected because of their aesthetic and functional characteristics and their ability to thrive in the soil and climate conditions throughout Zone 5 on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

The City of Somersworth recommends choosing native trees before choosing non-native trees. Native trees are the anchors of local ecosystems, providing food, shade, shelter and nesting areas for wildlife. When reviewing this list, please take note of which trees are noted as native when selecting tree species from this list.

Cultivar selections are recommendations only and are based on local nursery availability. Tree availability will vary based on availability in the nursery trade.

Deciduous Trees

Large Trees: Greater than 45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Acer rubrum</i> ^{dn}	red maple	Red Sunset®
<i>Acer saccharum</i> ⁿ	sugar maple	Green Mountain®
<i>Aesculus flava</i> ^{sn}	yellow buckeye	
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> ^{sn}	yellow birch	
<i>Betula lenta</i> ^{sn}	sweet birch	
<i>Betula nigra</i> ⁿ	river birch	Heritage®
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European hornbeam	'Fastigiata'
<i>Carya ovata</i> ^{d,sn}	shagbark hickory	
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> ^{dn}	common hackberry	'Prairie Pride'
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	katsuratree	KoolKat®
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> ^{ds}	ginkgo	(Choose male trees only)
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> ^{ds}	thornless honeylocust	'Shademaster'
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> ^{dsn}	Kentucky coffeetree	'Espresso'
<i>Larix decidua</i> ^{sn}	European larch	
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> ^{sn}	American sweetgum	'Rotundiloba'
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> ^{sn}	tuliptree	'Fastigiatum'
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> ^{sn}	cucumbertree magnolia	
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	dawn redwood	'Gold Rush'™
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> ^{dsn}	black tupelo	
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> ^{sn}	American sycamore	
<i>Platanus × acerifolia</i>	London planetree	'Exclamation'™
<i>Quercus alba</i> ^{sn}	white oak	

Assisted migration

Large Trees: Greater than 45 Feet in Height at Maturity (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> ⁿ	swamp white oak	American Dream [®]
<i>Quercus coccinea</i> ^{dn}	scarlet oak	
<i>Quercus lyrata</i> ^{dn}	overcup oak	
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> ^{dsn}	bur oak	
<i>Quercus montana</i> ^{dn}	chestnut oak	
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> ⁿ	chinkapin oak	
<i>Quercus palustris</i> ^{dsn}	pin oak	
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i> ⁿ	shingle oak	
<i>Quercus rubra</i> ^{dsn}	northern red oak	'Splendens'
<i>Quercus x</i>	oak hybrids	Regal Prince [®]
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i> ^d	Japanese pagodatree	'Millstone'
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> ^{sn}	common baldcypress	'Shawnee Brave'
<i>Tilia americana</i> ⁿ	American linden	'Redmond'
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	littleleaf linden	'Greenspire' ✓
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	silver linden	'Sterling' ✓
<i>Ulmus americana</i> ^{dsn}	American elm	'Princeton' ✓
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> ^d	Chinese elm	Allée [®]
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese zelkova	'Green Vase' ✓

Medium Trees: 31 to 45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i> ⁿ	red horsechestnut	
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> ⁿ	American yellowwood	'Rosea' ✓
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	hardy rubber tree	
<i>Maackia Amurensis</i> ^d	Maackia	MaackNificent [®]
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> ⁿ	American hophornbeam	
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	persian parrotia	'Vanessa' ✓
<i>Prunus maackii</i>	amur chokecherry	'Amber Beauty' ✓
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	sargent cherry	'Columnaris' ✓

section 1.5

Small Trees: 15 to 30 Feet in Height at Maturity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	trident maple	
<i>Acer campestre</i> ^s	hedge maple	Green Street™
<i>Acer griseum</i>	paperbark maple	
<i>Acer nigrum</i> ⁿ	black maple	
<i>Aesculus pavia</i> ^{s,n}	red buckeye	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> ⁿ	downy serviceberry	(Numerous exist)
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> ⁿ	allegheny serviceberry	
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> ^{n,n}	American hornbeam	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> ^{d,n}	eastern redbud	'Forest Pansy'
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> ^{s,n}	white fringetree	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> ⁿ	pagoda dogwood	
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	kousa dogwood	(Numerous exist)
<i>Cornus mas</i>	cornelian cherry	'Spring Sun'
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	European filbert	'Contorta'
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> [*]	common smoketree	'Flame'
<i>Cotinus obovata</i> ^{*n}	American smoketree	
<i>Crataegus viridis</i> ^{d,n}	green hawthorn	'Winter King'
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i> ^{*n}	Carolina silverbell	'Arnold Pink'
<i>Magnolia × soulangiana</i> [*]	saucer magnolia	'Alexandrina'
<i>Magnolia stellata</i> [*]	star magnolia	'Centennial'
<i>Magnolia × loebneri</i> [*]	loebner magnolia	'Leonard Messel'
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> ^{s,n}	sweetbay magnolia	Moonglow®
<i>Malus</i> spp.	flowering crabapple	(Disease resistant only)
<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	higan cherry	'Pendula'
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> ⁿ	common chokecherry	'Schubert'
<i>Stewartia ovata</i> ⁿ	mountain stewartia	
<i>Styrax japonicus</i> [*]	Japanese snowbell	'Emerald Pagoda'
<i>Syringa reticulata</i> ^s	Japanese tree lilac	'Ivory Silk'

* denotes species that are **not** recommended for use as street trees.

^d denotes species that are drought tolerant

^s denotes species that are tolerant to salt spray, saline soils, or both.

ⁿ denotes species that are native to North America.

Coniferous and Evergreen Trees

Large Trees: Greater than 45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Abies balsamea</i> ⁿ	balsam fir	
<i>Abies concolor</i> ⁿ	white fir	
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	cedar-of-Lebanon	
<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> ⁿ	Nootka falsecypress	'Pendula'
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> ^s	Japanese cryptomeria	'Sekkan-sugi'
<i>Ilex opaca</i> ^{dsn}	American holly	
<i>Picea albies</i>	Norway Spruce	
<i>Picea glauca</i> ⁿ	white Spruce	
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian pine	
<i>Picea omorika</i>	Serbian spruce	
<i>Picea orientalis</i>	Oriental spruce	
<i>Pinus resinosa</i> ⁿ	red pine	
<i>Pinus strobus</i> ^{dn}	eastern white pine	
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	scotch pine	
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> ⁿ	Douglas-fir	
<i>Thuja plicata</i> ⁿ	western arborvitae	(Numerous exist)
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> ⁿ	eastern hemlock	

Medium Trees: 31 to 45 Feet in Height at Maturity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> ⁿ	atlantic whitecedar	
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> ^{dsn}	eastern redcedar	
<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	limber pine	'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'
<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>	Bosnian pine	
<i>Pinus thunbergii</i> ^s	Japanese black pine	
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ⁿ	eastern arborvitae	(Numerous exist)

Small Trees: 15 to 30 Feet in Height at Maturity

Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar
<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> ^{dn}	Foster's holly	
<i>Pinus cembra</i> ^{ds}	Swiss stone pine	
<i>Pinus mugo</i> ^{ds}	mugo pine	

ⁿ denotes species that are drought tolerant

^s denotes species that are tolerant to salt spray, saline soils, or both.

ⁿ denotes species that are native to North America.