

Winterville Tree Commission

Thurs., Sept. 21, 2023, 7:00 PM
in the Pittard Park Pavilion

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tina Mills (Chairperson), Brian Binder (Secretary), Brian Herndon
Non-Voting Members: Bob Bonsall (advisory), Ande Burke (advisory)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the July 13, 2023 meeting were approved, with a minor correction.

Arborist Report

No report.

P & Z meeting

Tina and Susan met with the Planning & Zoning Commission. They (the P&Z Commission) agreed that a development proposal will need to include a Tree Canopy Plan approved by the City Arborist prior their consideration of that proposal. To this end, ► Tina will work with Wendy to modify the appropriate permit form(s) to include a Tree Canopy Plan check-box. It was agreed that the Tree Canopy Conservation Ordinance should be referenced on the form as part of this modification.

Commemorative Tree Program

Installation of pre-numbered aluminum tags was suspended until temperatures moderate.
► Brian B. will try to move this forward in the coming months, and will be in touch by email as necessary.

As mentioned at our last meeting, the Commemorative Tree order form has been changed to reflect the new \$200 price. New trees will be restricted to native species.

Tina reports that only one Commemorative Tree application has been received for this coming planting season. In addition, ► she will submit an application for a White Oak in honor of Holly Campbell. (Tree Commission members who served with Holly and are so-inclined are invited to contribute funds to cover the cost.)

Commemorative Trees on Private Property

Brian B., Ande, & Susan came up with a draft agreement that a home owner would need to sign in order to get a Commemorative Tree planted on their private property. A few details were discussed and agreed upon. In particular, we agreed that any such plantings would be designated Protected Trees, as defined in the Tree Ordinance. ► Brian B. will make the necessary modifications and distribute another draft for (possibly) final consideration at the next meeting.

By way of illustrating the sorts of issues that could come up when Commemorative Trees are planted on private property, Tina reported that the people who recently got two such trees (both

Chinese Pistache) on their property have asked that those trees be replaced with a single Red Maple, the species they had originally requested. Tom has agreed to plant the new tree and relocate the old ones. A new plaque will also be required.

Tree Canopy Workshop

The final report from Matt Lee (Green Infrastructure Center) is done, and can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ikuXaf81_G2RkuamRzylt4oQ0mTv10yV/view?usp=sharing

There was some concern expressed about the underlying GIS data – in particular that the data may already be out of date, and some areas may have been cleared after the data was obtained.

Industrial Development on Spring Valley Rd.

Not discussed.

Joint meeting with the Jefferson City Tree Council

Not discussed.

Tree Sale / Give-Away?

We agreed that a tree give-away event (see below) should take precedence, assuming it is funded.

Brian B. and Tina put together a proposal for a tree-giveaway event to the ReLeaf program administered by the GA Forestry Commission. We asked for \$1,000 to cover the cost of 75 trees, to be given away to residents of Winterville. The required 1:1 match would be met by the City, which will provide mulch (also to be given away) and cover Susan's time, and by our volunteer time. Susan agreed to conduct a public workshop in the fall to advertise the give-away and educate people about tree planting & maintenance. The give-away itself would be held on two consecutive Saturdays in Jan., one of which would likely be 1/13/24 (MLK day weekend).

The GFC is supposed to make funding decisions by the end of this month. ► If we're funded, there will be a lot of work to do!

Web & Facebook Page

► Brian B. still needs to get with Melissa Metzger about updating our web page.

Tina has set up a Tree Commission Facebook page, and has posted the maps from the Tree Canopy Workshop there.

William Strong Property

Brian H. put together a presentation about the property. Some minor suggestions were made, and it was agreed that ► Brian would present this to the City Council at the next Council Workshop (Tues 10/3/23 at 6:00), with the idea being that this would be a good parcel to buy with SPLOST funds earmarked for green space acquisition.

Events

- 1) Commemorative Tree Celebration / Tree-Product Potluck. Sun Oct 22 at 1:00 PM in the Pavilion. We need to get the word out: Tina put this in the Gazette, ► Brian B. will email / e-vite Commemorative Tree donors, ► Tina will put on our (new) Facebook page, etc.
- 2) Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail are planning another work day for 'the cut.' Bruce Johnson has invited the Tree Commission to participate, probably 5:30-7:30, date TBD.
- 3) MLK Day 2024 – if our tree give-away is funded, that will pre-empt other activities.

Past Events

- 1) Charter Day – Sat. Aug 12. Tina, Susan, Brian B., and Brian H. were there. Unfortunately we didn't get very many visitors to our table. It was HOT, and thunderstorms cut the event short.

Replacement Cost for Commemorative Trees

Not discussed.

Our next regular meeting is Thurs. Nov. 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM, in the Winterville Cultural Center (formerly the Community Center).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.