

Winterville Tree Commission

Thurs., September 12, 2024, 7:00 PM
at the Pittard Park Pavilion

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tina Mills (Co-Chair), Brian Binder (Secretary)

Note: No votes were taken at this meeting, due to lack of a quorum

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from 7/18/24 awaits a quorum at our next meeting.

Arborist Report

See Attached

ReLeaf Tree Give-Away is ON

Tree Species: these 4 species were tentatively selected for the Give-Away:

<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Brandywine' or 'October Glory'	Red Maple
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringetree
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'	Southern Magnolia
<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Princeton'	American Elm

► Susan & Lea should weigh in before this list is finalized. [Lea has okayed this list.]

Plant-a-Tree Workshop date: Hopefully between 11/4 and 11/16/24; earlier being better than later. [Susan has set 11/14/24 as workshop date]

Other Relevant Dates:

- Application window: the day after the workshop, through Dec. 15.
- Tree Distribution: Sat. 1/18/25 and Sat. 1/25/25 -- mark your calendars!
(These dates avoid the Snowflake 10K on 1/11/25.)

Winterville Gazette

Susan is writing about Forest Fire Prevention / Firewise Programs for the upcoming issue.

► We'll also want to include information about the tree give-away! Brian B. will be in touch with Susan about this.

Our next regular meeting is

Thurs. Nov 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM, location TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

A few "Tree Updates:

- 1. Conducted a tree class at the library for children with the title, "If I Were a Tree". Focus was on how we know that trees are "living", what they have in common with us, how they help us live, how we have them live, and what their "jobs" are. Also planted seedling to take home with them and how to care for them.**
- 2. It was requested that I assess a tree on William Strong Rd as it leans over the road and has lost several sizeable limbs with noticeable die back in the crown. I agree that the tree needs removal, and I contacted Mateo for a second opinion. He inspected the tree with me, and agreed that he has seen significant decline over time. Additionally, there appears to be significant decay in the lower trunk and agrees with removal.**

Mateo stated that the tree is on ROW, and that the removal would be the responsibility of ACC. He said that the adjacent home owner has contacted him in the past, and that he will be glad to have direct contact with her to discuss the tree and the mitigation options,

- 3. It was requested that I look at the Maple tree outside of the one-story portion of the bookstore. I believe this to be on the Main Street side. While ½ of the canopy looks vibrant and healthy, the canopy on the opposite side appears to be dying. Just below this "dying" portion, the fruiting body Ganoderma. This fungus causes a wood-decaying infection that weakens trees and impacts its structural integrity and there is no effective way to stop it.**

I would be happy to meet and provide additional information about this problem

- 4. Inspected the Commemorative tree at the Baptist Church that was damaged by fire. In my opinion, the damage is significant enough that it will need to be replaced and, depending upon the EPD analysis of the soil, the replacement tree may need to be relocated.**

I have spoken with Gary Waters of Hartland Farms in Hartwell. He will prepare a quote that covers removal, cost of a 3.5" tree, the replanting of the tree, and soil replacement in the chemically burned area if determined to be necessary.

Next step would be to contact the truck owner's insurance company with a claim.

- 5. An additional Commemorative tree at the Baptist was reported by the donor as possibly having failure to thrive. In inspecting the trunk, previously occurring damage most likely mechanical damage, has impacted a significant part of the trunk. While part of the truck**

appears to have healed, about 2/3 of the diameter of the trunk appears to be dead and can lead to potential tree failure in the future. I think it is prudent to replace the tree with the replacement in tree in the same location.

I am not yet familiar with the process that Winterville follows in the replacement and/or relocation of Commemorative trees but am happy to help facilitate this.

6. With October being fire prevention month, the next Tree Commission Gazette will address that. The focus will be on "Firewise", a program that helps reduce the risk of property loss or personal injury in the event of an uncontained outdoor fire. We would like to follow this up with a February public workshop regarding landscape and building practices that property owners can utilize to keep them same
7. Brian has applied for this year's GTC Re-Leaf grant which las year allowed us to distribute free trees.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Russell

City Arborist.