

Winterville Tree Commission

Thurs., Nov. 9, 2023, 7:00 PM
in the Winterville Cultural Center

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tina Mills (Chairperson), Brian Binder (Secretary), Brian Herndon
Non-Voting Members: Ande Burke (advisory), Susan Russell (ex-officio)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the Sept. 21, 2023 meeting were approved.

Arborist Report

Susan attended the recent 'GFC Urban Forest Technical Support Grants' webinar. There are a lot of good opportunities; she suggests that ► we all watch that webinar to see if there's anything we want to pursue. One possibility of note is a review of the City Tree Ordinance. The deadline for applications is Dec. 15. Here is the link to the webinar:

[\[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8892528323562672386\]](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8892528323562672386).

P & Z Form including Tree Canopy Plan requirement

Tina has given Wendy the modified form that includes a Tree Canopy Plan check-box. This new form has not yet been implemented, but hopefully will be shortly.

Commemorative Tree Program

Brian B. reports that installation of numbered aluminum tags is complete! In all, about 170 trees were tagged.

Tina reports that the American Legion has ordered \$1,000-worth of trees. (One individual tree has been ordered to date as well.) There was some discussion about where additional trees might go – possibilities include the Auditorium/ Cultural Center campus, along Moores Grove Rd, along the FFT north of 5-Pts. Susan suggested that Hartland Farms in Hartwell would be an excellent source for these trees.

► Tina is still accepting contributions for a White Oak in honor of Holly Campbell – Tree Commission members who served with Holly and are so-inclined are invited to contribute.

Commemorative Trees on Private Property

Tabled until next meeting.

Industrial Development on Spring Valley Rd.

Not discussed.

There was some discussion of the construction activity on Voiles Rd, which according to the Mayor will be the site of a new Georgia Power data center.

Joint meeting with the Jefferson City Tree Council

We are still interested in this, perhaps in early 2024.

Tree Give-Away Project

Our proposal to the GFC ReLeaf program for a tree-giveaway event was funded! We have the funds to give away 75 trees (plus mulch) to residents of the City.

Susan gave a public workshop about tree selection, planting, and establishment on Nov. 2, which was attended by 8 people, 5 of whom subsequently submitted tree request forms. Additional request forms have been coming in since then. To date, 16 people have requested a total of 65 trees. Forms are available at City hall, or on-line here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m_8zkqg7N7KndibJ3nmFXSVDquRrdo3w/view?usp=drive_link.

Tree requests will be accepted until Dec. 15.

We will order 3-gal. trees from Angle Creek Nursery in late December, for delivery just prior to our tree distribution days. The distribution days are:

Sat 1/13/24 9:00AM-12:00 (MLK day weekend), and Sat., 1/20/24 1:00-4:00 PM.

► Please plan to be there on both days to help out if possible. We may need help earlier in Jan. as well to organize trees, assemble info packets, etc.

► Susan will plan the info packets that will accompany each tree; ► Brian B. will double-check what the grant requires in this regard.

Web & Facebook Page

Brian B. reports that our web page has been updated to reflect the current membership and include info about the Tree Commission, the Commemorative Tree Program, and the Tree Give-Away project. Approved Meeting Minutes have also been brought up to date, and the picture has been changed.

Tina has set up a Tree Commission Facebook page, and has posted the maps from the Tree Canopy Workshop there. She's also set up a YouTube channel and posted Commemorative Tree donor videos there.

William Strong Property

Brian H. gave his presentation to City Council at the 10/3/23 Council Workshop. Mayor & Council seemed to like the idea of purchasing the property. But it turns out that the ownership of the property is a bit murky. Jonathan Scott (Director of the Museum) is very supportive of the City acquiring the property owing to its historical interest, and he's digging into the ownership issue.

Replacement Cost for Commemorative Trees

Tom suggested that we establish costs before someone runs into or otherwise damages a tree.

► Susan will look into this.

Jefferson County Goings-On

Ande updated us on his activities in Jefferson County. He gave a talk to the Ladies Garden Club there, and they got excited about a Commemorative Tree Program, and other tree-related

issues. There are already a few trees planted in the park to honor folks, but there is much room for expansion. He'll give them information about good sources for Trees from Susan (Angel Creek Nursery and Hartland Farms).

Events

Upcoming

- 1) We are participating in "Bring one for the Chipper" Xmas Tree recycling.
Sat. Jan. 6, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM next to the recycling bins. There will likely be extra seedlings to take home if you come and help.
- 2) Tree give-away distribution days (see 'Tree Give-Away,' above for details):
Sat. 1/13/24 9:00AM-12:00, and Sat. 1/20/24 1:00-4:00 PM.

Past

- 1) Commemorative Tree Celebration / Tree-Product Potluck was held on Oct 22 in the Pavilion. Two donors spoke movingly about their honorees and trees. Altogether about 11 people attended. Good company, good weather and good food!
- 2) Friends of the Winterville Firefly Trail organized a work day on Nov. 1 to plant some native plants in 'the cut.' Good turnout, including some members of the Tree Commission.
- 3) Public Workshop on Tree Selection, Planting, and Establishment, presented by Susan 11/2/23 (see 'Tree Give-Away,' above for details).

Our next regular meeting is

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM, in the Winterville Cultural Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.