

## Winterville Tree Commission

Thurs., July 18, 2024, 7:00 PM  
at the Pittard Park Pavilion

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Brian Herndon (Co-Chair), Brian Binder (Secretary), Caroline Riggins  
Non-Voting Members: Lea Clark (ex-officio), Susan Russell (ex-officio), Bob Bonsall (advisory)  
Visitors: Stone Nicholson (Lea's summer intern)

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 9, 2024 meeting were approved.

#### Arborist Report

- Susan led a well-received children's event at the Winterville Library.
- The "wildlife" area in Pittard Park was identified as a suitable location for the Black Walnut that a donor wants to plant as a Commemorative Tree.
- The commemorative tree that was burned by the commercial truck fire in the Baptist Church parking lot is doomed. Heartland Farms will remove the old tree and plant a new one, the expense presumably to be covered by the truck operator's insurance. There's concern that cleaning chemicals may have spilled from the truck and contaminated the soil; analysis of the soil will inform decisions about how much soil needs to be removed. In any case, it is prudent to plant the replacement tree in a different location.
  - ▶ Susan will speak to the tree donor and church representatives to determine the new location.

#### ReLeaf Tree-Giveaway Grant Proposal – II

Brian B. submitted the application for a second tree give-away, very similar to the first. Officially, funding decisions are supposed to be made in Aug., though Lea thinks that it may take somewhat longer for us to hear.

#### Fall Tree Sale

Susan discussed the mechanics of holding a tree sale. If this year's tree give-away is funded, this would be pushed off to the future (as decided at our 5/9/24 meeting). If we aren't funded, we could consider holding a sale this fall instead.

#### Winterville Gazette

The remaining 2024 deadlines for the Gazette are 9/15 and 12/15.

▶ Susan will write about Forest Fire Prevention / Firewise Programs for the next issue. We'll also want to include information about the tree give-away if it is funded.

### Commemorative Tree Program

See Arborist Report, above, for information about the tree in the Baptist Church parking lot that was burned, and about siting the requested Black Walnut.

Lea reported that at the Marigold Festival this year cars were parked much too close to newly planted commemorative trees, south of Park View / behind the Fire Station. Susan was aware of this, and she and Tom Doonan have discussed making sure it isn't repeated at future festivals.

Bob expressed gratitude for the Commemorative Tree honoring him and Averil, but pointed out a potential problem with the plaque. ► Brian B. will look into correcting this.

### Public Workshops

If the ReLeaf grant is funded, Susan will give a tree planting workshop in October, like she did for last year's program.

Susan would like to give a Firewise workshop in Jan. or Feb. 2025. She would cover landscaping and construction practices that reduce property loss and personal injury in the event of a forest fire. She also suggested that Winterville might want to become a "Firewise community," which can help with grants for equipment, and may lower our ISO rating (and therefore local home insurance rates).

Susan also brought up the idea of holding quarterly, season-appropriate workshops.

### Tree health issues

Bob reported that there's a large oak on William Strong that's badly damaged, possibly by relatively recent construction activity.

Also, the 3 birch trees by the Doctor's Museum seem to be in distress. These are well-established Commemorative Trees.

► Susan will have a look at these trees.

### Our next regular meeting is

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.