

Winterville Tree Commission

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

Meeting Minutes

(Minutes taken by Andē Burke, transcribed by Brian Binder)

Present: Tina Mills (Chairperson), Brian Herndon
Non-Voting Members: Andē Burke (advisory), Susan Russell (ex-officio)
Guests: Jonathan Scott (Director, Winterville Cultural Heritage Council)

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

Approval of Minutes from 11/9/23 meeting

Approval awaits a quorum at our next meeting.

Arborist Report

No report.

P & Z Form including Tree Canopy Plan requirement

Tina and Wendy still need to update Building Permit Form and Subdivision form, to put the City Arborist review of plans and review fees on the form.

Tree City USA & GFC Grant Applications

Tina submitted our Tree City USA application 1/7/24. Our first year was 2019, with Holly & Bob behind the push.

Tina also applied for a GFC grant to review our Tree Ordinance. We did NOT get that award. Funds went to needy communities.

Commemorative Tree Program

White Oak for Holly, tree for Wendy's mom, \$50/ each. ► Susan and Tina going to Angel Creek this month. Should we do a tree for Bob?

It is time to do something about the Shover's trees. ► Tina will talk to Tom.

Joint meeting with the Jefferson City Tree Council

Susan: Jefferson is getting renewed energy after getting an adverse mayor. Citizens have to push for tree attention in many cases. Jefferson Tree Commission would probably respond positively from Winterville's attendance to its Arbor Day Festival on Feb 16th, a Friday.

Tree Give-Away Project

Susan gave a tree workshop - it was well attended [see also 11/9/23 Minutes].

We ordered 97 trees to be distributed Jan 13th and 20th. They will be delivered this week and placed behind the Recycling bins by Community Garden Tom is bringing mulch & bags. City is covering the cost for over-demand.

▶ Brian B. will email tree requesters to remind them

▶ Susan will make care packets. She made one for Andē and it looks good. The packet includes a Tree's Owners Manual, 'Don't be a fuel' pamphlet on fire safety, soil sample bag, Susan's card, label with name and trees obtained, and description sheet for each tree type ordered.

▶ Tina and Susan will arrange trees when they arrive at 8:45, Brian H. & Andē to arrive at 9:00

Tree Distribution will be Jan. 13 (9 AM-12 PM) and Jan. 20 (1-4 PM); volunteers needed.

▶ Susan, Brian H., & Andē volunteered to work with Tina. [Brian B. as well.]

Trees not picked up will be moved to other projects

Spring Tree Sale

Collecting the requests on paper at City Hall [for the Tree Give-Away] was simple and straightforward. It would also be easy to collect cash and checks - credit card payment and online ordering would be more difficult to set up AND we would lose some \$\$\$. We will concentrate on the Fall instead since this event was in Jan.

▶ Vote (and plan?)

Web & Facebook Page

Web page: Brian B. will update us in March. [See also 11/9/23 Minutes]

Facebook page: Tina has posted the maps from the Tree Canopy Workshop. [see also 11/9/23 Minutes.]

Replacement Cost for Commemorative Trees

Tom suggested that we establish costs before someone runs into or otherwise damages a tree. [Not Discussed]

William Strong Property

Jonathan Scott joined us from the Winterville Cultural Heritage Council as Director. He has done extensive research on these properties. He gave a history of the properties and verified Maurice Daniels owns the one parcel. The other is still owned by the former church, but no living members exist. A process can be done to procure this into the city's hands. Jonathan will work on this since having a property owned by the city for historic purposes usually benefits the environmental aspects.

Landmark Trees

From the Tree Ordinance: “4.1.24. Landmark tree. Any tree 18 inches DBH or larger on undeveloped properties; any healthy tree officially designated by the tree commission at the request of the tree owner as a community landmark due to its species, size, configuration, historical significance or other notable characteristic.”

We should identify potential landmark trees, although the owner would have to want to proceed. Susan says there are little hollow bits to determine a tree’s age and Mark Wildes might be willing to help with this. Susan mentioned we could propose if a developer uses a timber harvester to assess the lot, the developer would have to wait 5 years before commencing their plan, but if the developer used a forester to evaluate land, leaving landmark trees, keeping clear of waterways, they could start work immediately.

► Andē to research Landmark & Champion tree programs.

Largest Holly tree in Georgia is in Winterville.

Joan Cox Derda on Peachtree lives on 12 acres that was her father’s farm. She has some trees she would like to designate as Landmark Trees. These would be our first. How shall we go about it? Ask her first, get Mark to help spec the tree, register with the Georgia Tree Council [This was not talked about at the meeting.]

Events

Upcoming

- 1) Tree give-away distribution days (see ‘Tree Give-Away Project,’ above for details):
Sat. 1/13/24 9:00AM-12:00, and Sat. 1/20/24 1:00-4:00 PM.

Past

- 1) “Bring one for the Chipper” Xmas Tree recycling, Sat. Jan. 6, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
We recycled 8 trees, gave away 10 packets of seeds and numerous seedlings, and logged 14 volunteer hours. \$30/hour can be used as volunteer hours to satisfy Tree USA requirements.

Our next regular meeting is

Thurs. March 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM, at the Pittard Park Pavilion.

[Subsequently changed to 3/21/24.]