

Winterville Tree Commission

Thurs., Oct. 13, 2022, 6:00 PM
in the Pavilion at Pittard Park

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tina Mills (Chairperson), Brian Binder (Secretary), Mateo Fennell, Brian Herndon
Non-Voting Members: Bob Bonsall (advisory), Susan Russell (ex-officio).

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Sept. 15, 2022 meeting were approved.

Commemorative Tree Program Update

Brian B. extracted donor email addresses from the original application forms and has added them to the database. He's also working on incorporating Lea's summer tree survey data, and on producing a tree location map. He pointed out that although unique numbers were assigned to the first 90 or so trees, that practice didn't continue for later trees. Furthermore, numbers that were assigned are not always shown on the commemorative plaques. This situation greatly complicates the management of CTP trees. ► We agreed that going forward, numbers will be assigned to each new tree and printed on the plaque. Strategies for numbering and marking the remaining trees were discussed.

Commemorative Tree Celebration & "Tree-Product Potluck"®

We finalized plans for the Sun. Oct 16 date, 1:00-4:00 PM event. ► We will arrive 15 min early to set up. Tina will bring a mic & sound system. Everyone will contribute plates, plastic/bamboo-ware, etc., and some drinks. (Among other things, Bob will bring 'butties'.)

Storm Water

We remain interested in a program to reduce land owners' storm water fees linked to tree planting. Since these fees are levied by the county, we need to open a discussion with them about this. ► Susan will talk to Andrew Saunders (ACC), whom she knows.

Tree Ordinance

Last month's work session ended up being more about new developments in town than about the changes to the ordinance. So Susan is working on tweaks, and ► she'll distribute a draft shortly.

In the meantime, we agreed that it was very important that Winterville P&Z recognizes the requirements that the ordinance imposes on approvals. To that end, ► we will try to get the P&Z application form modified to include a Tree Canopy check-box. ► Tina is also spearheading an effort to produce a Tree Canopy Plan submission form, akin to Clarke County's form.

Georgia Tree Council Meeting November 2-3 (Information Item)

Tina got a scholarship as well as funding from the City to attend this meeting in beautiful Rome, GA. Of particular interest: a Tree Board Roundtable on day-1.

Membership

Brian Herndon was approved as a new member by the City Council. We voted retroactively (and unanimously) to recommend that they do so. Welcome to the Commission Brian!

Ande Burke has submitted an application for membership as well (distributed by Tina via email). We voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve him at their next meeting.

Joint Meeting with Jefferson Tree Council

Susan reports that the Jefferson Tree Council is enthusiastic about meeting us here in Winterville. ► We will try to arrange for some time in January 2023.

Christmas Tree Recycling

► Tina will check with Tom about using the area next to the dumpsters as a drop-off point.

Arborist Report

Susan is working on the Tree Ordinance, and will circulate draft changes in the near future. She will forward a monthly activity report shortly.

Our Tree City Certification is up for renewal. ► Susan offered to deal with the paperwork.

Susan reported that Jefferson's tree sale did very well again this year. There was a general consensus that we should do one here next year. It was noted that Athens has had similar events in the past – we should be sure not to step on their toes. ► January agenda item.

We discussed the recent tree clearance on William Strong, and decided that because it appears to be a private owner clearing land in preparation for building a house, it is presumably exempt from Tree Canopy regulations.

Additional Items

- William Strong property (from Mateo)
There is a wooded lot on William Strong Ln that has been for sale for a while. Problems with utility access would make it hard to develop, and so it may be relatively inexpensive. This lot is adjacent to the old Baptist Church site, and so has historical as well as conservation value. Mateo suggested that we consider recommending to Mayor & Council that the City purchase this lot using SPLOST funds designated for green space acquisition. There was general support for this idea.
- Commemorative Tree Maintenance (from Mateo)
We need to schedule a pruning session involving qualified volunteers. January would be best. ► Agenda item for January Meeting..

Our next regular meeting is Thurs. Jan. 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM, location TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.