

## Winterville Tree Commission

**Thurs., Sept. 15, 2022, 6:00 PM**  
in the Pavilion at Pittard Park

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Tina Mills (Chairperson\*), Brian Binder (Secretary), Mateo Fennell, Dorset Trapnell.  
**Non-Voting Members:** Bob Bonsall (advisory), Lea Clark (ex-officio), Susan Russell (ex-officio).  
**Guests:** Brian Herndon

\*Secretary's note: As reflected in the minutes of our 6/6/22 meeting, Tina Mills was nominated as Chairperson of the Commission, with the vote to be held via email in order to include all eligible members. That vote was concluded on 6/8/22, with unanimous approval of Tina as Chairperson. Congrats again Tina, and thanks for taking this on!

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 6, 2022 meeting were approved.

#### Our new city arborist: Susan Russel

With WTC encouragement, Winterville has contracted with Susan Russell to serve as City Arborist. Susan comes to the job with a great deal of experience, and is already busy with City responsibilities – her monthly reports for July & August are attached. We are thrilled that Susan is part of the Winterville tree team!

#### Commemorative Tree Program Update

We looked over the first batch of plaques overseen by Tina and they looked great. ► Tina will deliver to Tom for mounting. If he is too busy, Bob volunteered to do this.

Brian has taken custody of the CTP database that Bob developed. ► He will add donor email addresses from those original application forms that are available. Once this is done, we can try to track down remaining addresses through Wendy, the Baptist Church, etc.

#### Commemorative Tree Celebration

We finalized the Sun. Oct 16 date, 1:00-4:00 PM date. Tina has reserved the Pittard Park Pavilion. The main event will be a tree-product potluck. We're also hoping to get CTP donors to share stories/ thoughts/remembrances of their honorees. ► Tina will bring a mic & sound system. Perhaps we can get local blogger Victoria Cooper (littledecisionspodcast@gmail.com) to feature these stories as well? ► Tina will you contact her. We drafted a blurb to be distributed far and wide (see Brian B.'s 9/16/22 email).

We'll do final organization at our next (Oct. 13) regular meeting.

### Gazette Entry

► Tina will put together the next entry (for Oct. – Dec. issue). Topics: Our new City Arborist, Commemorative Tree event (incl request for stories?), maybe “Forest Bathing” event at Sandy Creek.

### Storm Water

We remain interested in a program to reduce land owners’ storm water fees linked to tree planting. Susan has experience getting this done in Jefferson and will explore options here. A complicating issue is the fact that water & storm water utilities are administered by Clarke County.

### City Tree inventory

Lea and her GFC intern inventoried the commemorative trees up through #93 (with some gaps). Unfortunately, technical issues prevented her from incorporating the survey data that Holly and her students recorded earlier in the summer. Lea previously emailed us a spreadsheet of her inventory, and at the meeting she bequeathed her notes (which in addition to the survey include some older maps, etc.) to Brian, for the WTC. Thanks for all that work Lea!

► Brian will endeavor to incorporate this data into our CTP database.

### Tree Ordinance

Susan has gone over the current Ordinance and feels that there are places that could be improved. There was general discussion about imminent development and the need for beefing up the tree ordinance in this context. It was agreed that as a first step, Susan would meet with a subset of interested/available commission members to discuss potential changes.

► This working session is set for Thurs 9/29/22 at 10:00 AM at the Little City Diner.

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

The Georgia Tree Council Annual Meeting is Nov. 2 and 3 in Rome, GA – scholarships are available for tree board members (covering the cost of registration, some food provided, does not cover travel expenses). Their website says a virtual attendance option will be available. The conference agenda has not been posted yet. When it is, it will be here:

<https://gatrecouncil.org/what-we-do/programs/>.

Lea and Holly are both on the GA Tree Council and will be there. Tina indicated that she will likely attend. ► Anyone else who is interested should contact Lea.

### Membership Votes

The following votes regarding Commission membership were taken:

Susan Russell (City Arborist): ex-officio member. Approved 4-0

Lea Clark (GA Forestry Commission): ex-officio member. Approved 4-0

Holly Campbell: advisory member. Approved 4-0

Bob Bonsall: advisory member. Approved 4-0

### Joint Meeting with Jefferson Tree Council

General consensus that an informal meeting of this sort is a good idea. It would happen here in Winterville. We could hear about their Tree Sale / 'TreeBate' program, and they could learn about our Commemorative Tree Program and see what's going on in Winterville. ► Susan will help get this scheduled.

### Christmas Tree Recycling

General agreement that we should participate in the "Bring one for the chipper" program this year. This would mean identifying an area in Winterville for tree drop-off and registering with the program (by Dec. 1).

### WTC Meeting Schedule

We agreed to set up a regular schedule of quarterly meetings. These will be at **6:00 PM on the second Thursday of January, March, July, and October.**

### Additional Information Items

- 'Clear up the Cut' event (from Bob)  
Saturday Oct. 1 at 9:00 AM. Sponsored by the Firefly Trail Local Action Committee. This will consist mainly of weed removal, especially burnweed (fireweed). If you can come, bring gloves and a favorite tool if you have one. ('The Cut' is the below-grade section of the Firefly Trail to the north of Adam's Alley.)
- 'Forest Bathing' event (from Lea)  
Saturday Oct. 22, 10:00–11:30 AM at the Sandy Creek Nature Center. This event is sponsored by the Education committee (chaired by Holly!) of the Athens Tree Council. Tina Tinsley, Certified Forest Therapist, will lead. The event is free but registration is required and space is capped. Registration opens on Oct. 1 on the ACC website, and will be in SCNC's fall newsletter: <https://www.accgov.com/5973/Nature-Center-Happenings>.

**Our next regular meeting** is Thurs. Oct. 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Pittard Park pavilion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

**Monthly Arborist Report**  
June 22 to July 31, 2022

The following is a summary of the Arborist activities for June 22 through July 31, 2022

**June 22:**

First meeting with Tree Council. Discussed history of the Tree Council, accomplishments, projects, and needs. Discussed challenges and needs due to upcoming development. Requested by Lea Clark to develop an Approved Species List to be used by developers during commercial construction and other projects.

**July 5:**

Met with Bob Bonsall to assess two trees next to the depot that appear to be in decline due to possible soil contamination due to imbedded coal. Neither tree is expected to survive long term and will eventually need removal. At this time there are no significant targets, nor are the trees of sufficient size, to require immediate removal and/or removal.

Attended City Council meeting for introduction to the Council and staff.

**July 7:**

Per request of Lea Clark, created Approved Species List for use by commercial developers.

**July 12:**

Met with Tom Doonan to inspect and assess the trees in the park, as well as to discuss ongoing maintenance of the park trees in general.

Two of the trees, located in the Gazebo parking lot and next to the road, are currently in need of removal. Several large limbs have broken off and fallen due to decay. It was further decided that while the removals are being scheduled, that that area of the parking lot and grassy area will be cordoned off with barricades and caution tape in order to protect vehicles and park attendees from further failures from these trees.

Trees that are candidates for routine maintenance, pruning, and crown cleaning were identified and will be incorporated into the regular routine maintenance schedule.

**July 19:**

Participated in a meeting with staff and representatives of the Georgia Arborist Association (GAA) regarding the November Tree Climbing Competition that the GAA will be coordinating.

**Monthly Arborist Report**  
August 1 to August 31, 2022

The following is a summary of the Arborist activities for August 1 through August 31, 2022:

**August 1:**

Attended Winterville City Council meeting. Evaluated oak tree at Baptist church which seemed to be turning brown. Discussed with Lea Clarke my thoughts on the tree and advised her that my evaluation was that it was a result of. Oak leaf miners, a cyclical insect problem. The tree appears otherwise healthy and should not suffer any long term damage and not require any treatment.

**August 9:**

Reviewed the Winterville ordinances in detail with focus on ordinances dealing with commercial and industrial development. The Tree Ordinances are “good ordinances”. In light of upcoming development, it is suggested that those ordinances be reviewed and updated to accommodate these future development projects. This information will be discussed with the Tree Council in the September meeting.

**August 14:**

Attended the Charter Event and talked with attendees regarding trees. Also met with Councilman Bruce Johnson regarding the possible conflict between the solar panel project and the adjacent tree as the tree may shade up to 25% of the panels. Mr. Johnson also expressed concerns about a patio that will be installed around the tree. Spoke with Tom Doonan who stated that the patio would be elevated and should not harm the tree.

It was decided that we would ask Mr. Doonan to ask New Urban Forestry to give a recommendation as to how much canopy could be lifted and thinned to lessen the amount of shade the tree will cast on the panels. New Urban’s response was that in pruning to provide an adequate amount of sunlight could cause the death of the tree.

New Urban also stated that in travelling through town that there were some water oaks that may need replacing. I will meet with Mr. Doonan about this.

Susan Russell