

Winterville Tree Commission
Friday, November 30, 2018
Meeting Minutes
Averil and Bob Bonsall's Residence

Present: Holly Campbell, Bob Bonsall, Averil Bonsall, Roger Cauthen, Seth Hawkins

Tree City Application – report from Roger:

- Is done, and signed by Dodd
- Starting next year, the WTC October meeting should focus on the Tree City application.
(Need to wait for the City budget meeting – in early June)

Firefly Trail update (Roger)

- This is moving along very quickly.
- Final property acquisition is in progress.
- Williams & Assoc. and ACC staff walked the trail and discussed the Issues for Winterville:
 - **Trees:** What do Winterville residents expect?
 - It is possible to save all the trees, and this would require little grading. However, the large trees, especially sweetgums, will get too big, resulting in excessive leaf fall, limb drop etc.
 - There is still woodland on both sides of the Trail. It was decided that the Tree Commission members should walk along the woody part of the Trail and mark trees that should be saved – see below – December 4th, 4:30 pm
 - **Safety issues:**
 - should be considered at the same time
 - Screening – woodland needs to be opened up to where people are comfortable. This will also allow air movement, which is important for drying off the trail.
 - Maybe leave a natural slope at the edges?
 - Routine maintenance of the Winterville section of the Trail will be done by ACC
 - As soon as the canopy is opened up, privet will become invasive. It will be the responsibility of Winterville to take care of aesthetic improvements.
 - It was suggested that we have a **replacement program** for trees that are removed.
 - Demolition will start in March/April
 - **Tuesday, December 4 at 4:30 pm – Tree walk along Firefly Trail (Meet at Five-point triangle)**
 - *Photograph trees – Bob*
 - *GIS Marking – Seth*
 - *Flagging tape – Roger*

MLK Tree Planting – January 21st, 2019 – “Making the Shade” program

Early prep (from now and forward)

- Look for sources of loaner tools – shovels, hand-rakes, wheel-barrows. Request from:
 - Extension (Holly)
 - Keep Athens Beautiful (Seth)
 - Community Garden (Averil)
 - PTO (email to Dr. Elder from Holly??)
- Send out initial announcements for volunteers and “save-the date” info.
 - Winterville listserv (Averil – through Wendy, JoAnn or Brenda)
 - Community Garden (Averil)
 - Dr. Elder through PTO
- Later announcement with details – Holly & Averil
- Sponsors for coffee and donuts – Dunkin Donuts; Little City Diner – incentives - lunch (Holly)

Week of January 7 – Utilities assessment/meeting with school facilities manager (Seth)

Friday, January 18 - Prep for MLK Tree Planting

- 35 B&B trees will be delivered from Hartland Farms, Hartwell, on a flat-bed truck
- Unloading – Roger and Tom with skid
- Dig holes (Seth, with auger)
- Place trees, place mulch piles
- Dr. Elder will close playground for the day
- Sean Doonan will provide mulch

Monday, January 21 – 9 am-12 noon - MLK Tree Planting – “Making the Shade”

- Plan for 50 volunteers
- Bright-colored duct-tape for marking tools (Averil)

(If rained out, notification can be sent through the school volunteer page, and the Winterville listserv. Re-plan for tree planting.)

Feb 20 – Winterville Arbor Day

Holly suggested that we hold a program at Winterville Elementary School so that students are involved in this. Maybe an “adopt-a-tree” program – by class. Holly will email Dr. Elder, the school principal.

April Tree Tour – possible dates April 6 or 20, or May 4

- Averil will check with Wendy on City events that might clash with any of these dates.
- Holly will invite Dr. Smalley to lead the tour, and ask Eric Khuler to join the group to discuss the cultural use of the trees – food, medicinal, etc.

January 7 – WTC – Annual presentation to City (approx. 15 minutes). Discuss at Dec. meeting

Friday, December 28 at 9:00 am – next WTC meeting (at the Bonsalls)

Other:

- The September meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- Averil will ask JoAnn Snow to update the WTC webpage with these new dates.

Attachment 1:- Summary of Dr. Elder's conversation with Holly about MLK Day Tree Planting

- The school is going to obtain snack and coffee for the event (we don't need to do it)
- The school will be outreaching to teachers, parents, and students in several ways in the few weeks prior to MLK (PTO Facebook page, text message to all parents, parent newsletter, big sign out front of school), plus ACC volunteer day of service folks requested (who won't show up till about 10am)
- Dr. Elder is fine with the 9am-1pm time, especially since the ACC volunteers won't show up till about 10am
- The ACC board of education groundsperson Seth needs to meet for locating onsite infrastructure is John Cleckhorn. Dr. Elder will arrange for Seth to meet with him onsite the 1st or 2nd week of Jan.
- One of the swingsets was moved on the playground, which will affect the placement of a few trees. Dr. Elder will check in with Seth about this.
- The school must have specific mulch, which they can obtain, unless New Urban Forestry has the mulch they can use. Dr. Elder will have someone call NUF to see if their mulch fits the bill. If not, the school will obtain mulch, but they need to know how much is needed? Seth, what do you recommend?
- The school put in a tool request with the county. They requested:
 - 4 wheelbarrows
 - 20 shovels
 - 10 leaf rakes
 - 40 work gloves
 - 10 five gallon buckets
 - 4 pitch forks
 - 4 flat shovels

Attachment 2:- Roger's Update on the Winterville Commemorative Tree Program

- Eight trees have been planted to date
- 21 spaces have been sited along Main Street. With eight trees already planted, there are 13 left to plant.
- Donations for 19 trees have been received or pledged, so there are only two trees left available for donation at the present site on Main Street.
- The remaining 13 spaces will be planted shortly after the new year.
- There will be numerous other sites for more trees to be developed over time.
- The American Legion has received a \$1,000 donation from a member for planting of 10 trees at an appropriate site. They suggest the Winterville Cemetery, where (as I think I understand) 10 of their past officers are buried.
- I attach a set of 21 commemoration plate text and a hand sketched map of the tree sites along Main Street