

Winterville Tree Commission

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Averil and Bob Bonsall's Residence

Present: Holly Campbell, Bob Bonsall, Averil Bonsall, Roger Cauthen, Seth Hawkins, Lea Clark, Rodney Walters

Welcomes: Holly welcomed Lea and Rodney.

Approval of February Minutes: The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Winterville Tree ID/Inventory Project (Seth)

- We would need permission for a guest account license to process data using the GIS program. Seth can process data from his account.
- It is now possible to generate a map using the current template, to include basic information about trees, and identify individual trees.
- The current inventory is two years old, and can be updated.
- Winterville staff will be able to develop a work plan for basic tree care and pruning.
- This would be a good project for Seth's summer interns.
- It might be possible to add a note on the inventory if a tree is QR coded.
- QR Code service is a pay service. We would have to pay for domain of the website. Maybe possible to link it to the Winterville City website? The website must be big to do this, because each tree has its own page. Holly and Seth will check into the possibilities of this.
- QR codes could eventually be used for a self-guided tree tour.
- The use of story maps was discussed as a way for the public to interact with the map.
- Inventory does not include all rights-of-way. Winterville has its own rights of way, and maintains them (mowing etc.) ACC has duty of care of these e.g. pruning.
- The whole of ACC needs to be re-inventoried.
- Winterville does not have many right-of-way trees. Most are in private front yards.
- Roger still has tree trunk protectors on his agenda.

Updates (Holly)

- **Winterville Elementary School program for State Arbor Day**
 - The final preparation meeting was held at the school on March 21st.
 - The program will be on Tuesday April 30, starting at 8:00 a.m.
 - Seth, Holly, and Averil will do presentations to 2nd and 3rd grade groups. Seth's will be done in two Grade-level groups, the others in four groups of about 30 students each.
 - Topics to include Tree Care, Tree ID, Tree Biology
- **Winterville Gazette article:** Holly submitted an article for the next Winterville Gazette, with photos of our recent events.

WTC Tree Tour (Saturday, April 2, 4-6 p.m.) (Holly)

- Holly brought Tree Tour posters to the meeting, and these will be distributed around Winterville and Athens by Commission members.
- Seth will contact Alexia Ridley (NPR) to promote the tour.
- Seth will provide publications and trees for donation. Holly will donate a SE Georgia Tree ID book. Averil will have the raffle tickets.
- Bob will set up a canopy and two tables – and this will be the starting and end-point of the tour.
- Rodney will take a poster to the Athens Tree Council. (ATC is undergoing a reformation period, working on plans for moving forward, and for working with other groups. Their main interest is in tree-planting projects. If we have a tree tour event every year, and they would like to be included, we could make it an event for Winterville and surrounds.)

Marigold Festival (Saturday, May 11) (Holly)

- We will post last year's tree tags in Pittard Park again.
- We will put out Commemorative Tree Program brochures at the Winterville booth.

Updating the Tree Ordinance (Roger)

- There are several changes that should be made to the Winterville Tree Ordinance (including a change to the number of voting members; broadening the reference to ex officio members to include people other than the City Arborist and GFC).
- This should be done so that we are in line with the ordinances of ACC and state-wide.
- Work sessions could be set up over the next few months.
- The Ordinance and WTC Bylaws need to be synchronized.

Status of Commemorative Tree Program, State Arbor Day Recognition: (Roger)

- Thirty six trees are now in place.
- Watering is needed!
- Next generation of trees (about 20) will follow the Firefly Trail in front of the church.
- We could also market the program to the people on Georgia Avenue - trees in front of their houses.
- There are more innovative ways to donate trees other than to commemorate a life, e.g. births, children, grand-children, organizations, events.
- The listed donation is \$100, but this needs further thought. It doesn't include labor, for example.
- The commemorative plates are ready. They are printed at the Botanical Garden, \$10 each. Steven (Works Dept.) is working on the posts.

Next meeting – Thursday, May 2nd, 7:30 a.m. (breakfast at the Bonsalls)