



Town of Holly Springs Tree Advisory Committee Minutes: *December 13, 2021*

Development Services • 128 S. Main Street • P.O. Box 8 • Holly Springs, NC 27540

Agenda Item 1: ROLL CALL

The Tree Advisory Committee met on Monday, December 13, 2021 in Town Hall at 128 South Main Street at 6:00 P.M. when quorum was established.

Members Present: Kelly Oten, Chair
Rachel Woods, Vice Chair
Vacant

Members Absent: Amanda Bowden, Secretary
Ginny Suever

Ex-Officio
Members Present: Aaron Wolff
Thomas Urquhart

Ex-Officio
Members Absent: Tony McDermott
Adam Orsak

Staff Present: Elizabeth Goodson
Cheryl Caines
Taylor Jackson
John Mullis
Brett Gosney

Others Present: Kristi Bennett

Agenda Item 2: Agenda Adjustment

No Agenda Adjustments

Agenda Item 3: Minutes

Minutes could not be voted on due to a lack of quorum.

Agenda Item 4: Tree City USA

a. Tree Board Organization

Mr. Hills informed the board of the adjustments and changes to the format of the meetings for the Tree Advisory Committee. The board will change to be more formal with more assistance from staff.

Mrs. Oten asked about when the vacant board member would filled.

Mr. Hills informed them that it would be happening in January.

Dr. Wolf asked about the ability to have zoom meetings and voting online.

Mr. Hills stated they were working on virtual abilities and voting via proxy would have to be voted on by council.

Dr. Wolf asked the board about having an attendance requirement.

Mrs. Goodson stated they have always kept attendance records and it something that can be watched closer to be reported to council.

b. Tree City USA Application

Mrs. Caines informed the board about the application process for Tree City USA and the submission that was submitted by the town on December 1.

c. Wake County Tree Canopy

Mrs. Caines informed the board of the Wake County Tree Canopy Study. A base line canopy will be reviewed for the county to help inform local policy regarding trees. It is beginning in March and should be complete in the fall of 2022. Mrs. Caines will inform the board of any updates regarding this.

Agenda Item 5: Street Tree Replacement Program

a. Street Tree Grant Applications

Mrs. Caines stated that there are three outstanding application for the street tree replacement program and all of the information that was requested has been provided. Only \$750 can be provided to the applicant. Owens has provided all of the requested information so the board sees no reason why they should deny the request.

Midden Way is requesting four trees be replaced and changed to red oak due to unfair conditions.

The board discussed if the change of species was the right change due to the size of the red oak. The board also discussed why the rest of the street was not changing the trees. Mrs. Caines stated that this may have been the only members that wanted to participate. The board sees no reason why to deny this request as well.

Tangeman has requested her street tree be changed and she is working with the HOA to complete this task. She is requesting \$300 for the replacement. It is a like for like change with a willow oak. The board does not see a reason why to deny this.

Discussion over why the town is replacing the street tree in Twelve Oaks when it was a result of over pruning by a company. The board concluded that it would be difficult to prove that a company was the result of a street tree dying. In the future the board can prioritize trees that have died of natural causes versus those that have died due to over pruning.

The Board has requested the results of the street tree program. Mrs. Caines stated she will provide the board with these results when they are available.

The board discussed the process of being able to apply for the replacement program and the difficulty it takes to be able to go from start to finish. The board would like this topic to be an agenda item in future meetings so they are able to have a complete process for the coming years.

The board discussed how the surplus funds would be used on street trees within the town.

Agenda Item 6: Tree Standards & Guidelines

No business

Agenda Item 7: Arbor Day & Education events

a. Tree Planting (winter)

Mrs. Caines discussed the dates for the winter tree planting event. The education event would be required to have an instructor and a TAC member to be available for the event.

Mrs. Woods stated she was in contact with a potential instructor from NC State.

Mr. Jackson stated that he had another location in need of a tree and he can wait until the dates for this education event.

The board discussed giving away trees at this event but if there would be enough money in the budget for this. The Board would like to call the Arbor day committee who may be able to supply them with trees. Mrs. Caines informed the board of Bartlett, who was trying to provide the town with tree seeds that may be appropriate to give away at this event.

b. Winter/Spring – tree pruning

Mrs. Caines informed the board of another education event that is requiring different types of trees so they are able to educate a wider variety of people.

Mr. Jackson stated he will be on the lookout for areas that would be applicable for this requirement.

c. Arbor Day – March 19

Mrs. Caines discussed that this is a day in which they would like to have volunteers come and plant trees on this day to celebrate. The Board was asked if they had other ideas for this day that would be appropriate or if the focus should be on planting. In the past it has been mostly the TAC, Town Council, Planning Board, and other staff members who were present.

The Board discussed other ideas that they may be able to do for this event with thoughts focusing on street trees. A request has been made for more shade at Jones Park with this potentially being a location for planting on Arbor Day. The Board also suggested put out the request to the Town to help identify areas of need within the Town.

The Board discussed locations of need within the Town that may be appropriate for the Arbor Day event as well as the difficulties that some locations may create.

The Board has requested access to the Towns street tree GIS.

d. Spring Fling – April 2

Mrs. Caines discussed Spring Fling with the board and how close the event is to Arbor Day. The Board wants to receive input from the community regarding these events so they are able to bring the community exactly what they would like.

Agenda Item 8: Next Meeting Anticipated Topics: January 10, 2022

No future meeting topics were discussed.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Brett Gosney
TAC Clerk