



Huntersville Planning Board
Tree/Canopy Save Subcommittee

Agenda

December 4, 2019

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Large Conference Room
Town Center – 3rd Floor
105 Gilead Road, Huntersville

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- A. Comments from Audience (5 minutes per person allocation)
 - B. Approval of Minutes
 - C. Other Business
 - 1. Confirm “scope” of recommendations
 - i. Explore other areas beyond changes to mitigation guidelines
 - ii. Discuss timing of next steps
 - 2. Define next steps
 - D. Adjourn

Meeting Schedule

Upcoming Meetings	
	No additional meetings scheduled

Tree and Canopy Save Subcommittee: Recommendations

Background

Pre-2015:

Tree mitigation was a 1 for 1 ratio. (Example: required to save 3 trees but are seeking mitigation for all 3 trees you would be required to replant 3 2" trees on site). This ratio did not represent the value of trees being removed.

2015 Sub-Committee:

Reviewed various ways to value trees. There was no standard method found.

- Surrounding communities were calculating tree mitigation based on the tree caliper
- 2015 sub-committee then looked at mitigation based on caliper. A caliper for caliper mitigation method costly.
- Sub-committee recommended 30% of the caliper should be mitigated. This recommendation was approved in a text amendment and is the current standard for calculating specimen tree save mitigation.

Today:

There is about \$25,000+ in the Tree Fund Bank

Areas of Focus

- 1) **Canopy Tree Save Mitigation**
Ability to count trees planted in the buffer as mitigation
- 2) **Specimen Tree Save Mitigation:**
Increasing the percentage of the caliper used to calculate mitigation (currently 30% of the caliper is mitigated).
Purchase new stronger, stable signs that are brand consistent with notifications and the website
- 3) **Meeting Tree Save Mitigation:**
Requiring tree save thresholds are met within the limits of disturbance for a project or giving reduced credit for tree save within areas that would other not be developable (floodplain, creek buffers, etc.)
- 4) **Other Areas Reviewed:**
Charlotte and Davidson's new guidelines
- 5) **Tree and shrub guidelines:** Partner with staff to update recommended list
- 6) **Educational and volunteer opportunities**

Recommendations

Now- Ordinance related

1. **Specimen Tree Save Guidance:** Reduce caliper of specimen trees from 24" to 18"
2. **Mitigation:** Mitigate 100% of caliper being removed
3. **Mitigation:** Limit the onsite planting used to meet buffer requirements to a maximum of 50%

Future- Non-ordinance related

1. **Arborist:** Recommend funding an arborist position and/or seek opportunities to share an arborist with other communities
2. **Tree Inventory:** Recommend e a street tree inventory as part of the 2030 Plan refresh
3. **Tree and Shrub guidelines:** Update and exclude invasive species
4. **Education and volunteer activities**