



Huntersville Planning Board
Tree/Canopy Save Subcommittee

Agenda

May 8, 2019

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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

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- A. Attendance: Commissioner Boone, Planning Board Members: Frank Gammon, Jennifer Davis, Catherine Graffy, Susan Thomas, Staff Members: Brad Priest, Meredith Nesbitt
- B. Comments from Audience (5 minutes per person allocation)
No audience in attendance.
- C. Other Business
1. Discuss logistics of subcommittee: meeting schedule
 - May 16 @ 5:00pm
 - May 30 @ 5:00pm
 - June 12 @ 5:30pm
 - June 27 @ 5:00pm
 - July 10 @ 5:30pm
 - July 25 @ 5:00pm
 2. Identify tree and canopy save related challenges
 - State Bill regarding tree preservation has been withdrawn. No longer a current concern.
 - Brad Priest provided background information on current tree save requirements and history of the 2015 tree save sub-committee.
 - 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 looked at various ways to value trees. There was no standard method found. Surrounding communities were calculating tree mitigation based on the tree caliber
 - 2015 sub-committee then looked at mitigation based on caliber. A caliber for caliber mitigation method costly. Sub-committee recommended 30% of the caliber should be mitigated. This recommendation was approved in a text amendment and is the current standard for calculating specimen tree save mitigation.
 - There is about \$27,000 in the Tree Fund Bank
 - Discussed comparisons to other towns

3. Create a problem statement to determine focus of subcommittee:
 - 30% Specimen Tree Save mitigation is too low
 - Discuss and seek options to encourage (or require if possible) mitigation be re-planted locally. Consider a policy or language to mark tree fund money to be used near the mitigation site (possibility within 3 miles of where trees were removed).
 - Look at kinds of trees that can be used as mitigation (for replanting). Consider requiring native trees. The problem is taking down a hardwood and mitigating with a crape myrtle.
 - Redline Article 7 Part A and Article 12
 - Review Tree Canopy Preservation Percentages (Article 7.4)
 - Consider qualifications of professionals allowed to complete a tree survey
 - Consider amending specimen tree definition so that all trees 12" DBH are specimen trees.

4. Other Business
 - Brad/Meredith to research specimen tree definition – where did 24" DBH for large hardwoods come from?
 - Committee to complete a detailed review of Article 7 Part A and Article 12 in preparation for the next meeting

5. Adjourn