



**Huntersville Planning Board**  
Tree/Canopy Save Subcommittee

**Minutes**

May 30, 2019

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Large Conference Room  
Town Center – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
105 Gilead Road, Huntersville

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Attendance: Commissioner Boone, Planning Board Members: Frank Gammon, Jennifer Davis, Catherine Graffy, Staff Members: Brad Priest, Meredith Nesbitt

A. Comments from Audience (5 minutes per person allocation)

1. Kim Aichele (9511 Cennetta Circle)

- Was at the Planning Board meeting on May 28. Commented on the Chapel Grove tree save mitigation that was approved by the Planning Board. Staff provided the proposed planting schedule and raised some concern regarding the use of Leland cypress because they can be diseased prone. Was encouraged with the overall diversity of the Chapel Grove proposed planting.
- Discussion changed to ability for Planning Board to recommend and Town Board to require a developer to save a tree or change a site design. Example of the EPCON project that was before the Planning Board (May 28). Planning Board does have the ability to recommend saving specific trees.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. D. Boone motioned to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2019 meeting. F. Gammon seconded the motion. Motion passes.

C. Other Business

1. Continue to work through Article 7 and Article 12

- Article 7.4.1 – no change recommended
- Article 7.4.2(a)
  1. Significant forest stand is not defined. Does it need to be and how to define this term. Committee agreed to make no change to the term “significant forest stand” until the review completing the review/discussion of the rest of the ordinance.
  2. Staff recommends changing “as defined in this ordinance” to “as prescribed in this ordinance”.
  3. Staff pointed out that this section is applicability. This is big picture and setting up tree preservation requirements. Generally, in applicability sections you have “should” terms. This sections has “shall” is used in this section.

4. This sections is something that the Planning Board can point to when recommending additional tree save or requiring additional consideration for specific tree save.

- Article 7.4.2(b)

1. Conflicts with definition of site analysis in Article 12 (page 12-23).
2. Does arborist fall under the category of “other profession”? An arborist does not survey, meaning they will not be pinpointing the location of the tree. A surveyor will be able to pinpoint the location but not necessarily be able to identify specific species of trees.
3. Staff recommends amending the definition in article 12 to match the criteria listed in Article 7.4.2(b)
4. Committee would recommend adding specific professionals in Article 7.4.2(b). Objective is to get someone more qualified than a surveyor, engineer, or landscape architect to identify trees. Concern with this was also discussed including additional cost and possible hardship on the developer adding an arborist requirement. This could be difficult for “small developments”.
5. Committee discussed the benefit of having more information on the health of trees when looking at site plans and tree surveys
6. Staff recommends rather than requiring a specific professional to produce a tree survey that the committee outline specific requirements that should be called out on the tree survey.
7. Committee continued discussion of adding an arborist requirement to the site analysis.
8. Jennifer to do research to find out what it would take for an arborist to be involved in the tree survey process.
9. Does staff have the authority in the review process to require the developer to get an arborist opinion if there is question or concern? Yes, the Ordinance does provided staff the ability to require developers to explain or verify tree remove and/or tree save.
10. Discussion needs to continue on this section but was agreed that the definition of site analysis and this section be amended to be consistent.

2. Discuss Carolina Tread Trail on Town’s Tree and Shrub List

- To be added to next meeting’s agenda

3. Update: Mapping parcels in the forestry program, research American Standards of Nursey Stock reference, and review Article 7.2.10

- To be added to the next meeting’s agenda

#### D. Upcoming Topics

1. Action item – tackle mitigation options. Consider outlining mitigation requirements and criteria for when mitigation is appropriate (provide criteria for Planning Board’s review).

#### E. Adjourn

1. Meeting adjourn at 6:02pm

## Meeting Schedule

| Upcoming Meetings |                                 |                                |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June              | Wednesday, June 12<br>5:30 p.m. | Thursday, June 27<br>5:00 p.m. |
| July              | Wednesday, July 10<br>5:30 pm   | Thursday, July 25<br>5:00 pm   |