



Huntersville Planning Board
Tree/Canopy Save Subcommittee

Agenda

June 12, 2019

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

- Kim Aichele (9511 Cennetta Circle)

- See projects being considered individually and expressed a desire to look at cumulative effect of tree save mitigation request. K. Aichele calculated that +/- 31 acres of trees are being lost on three upcoming projects – Walden Phase 3, Blackfarms Farmhouse Cluster and Ardmore at Bryton.
- Encouraged the sub-committee to increase tree save and tree mitigation requirements. If that cannot be done would like to see a greater diversity of tree species being planted.

B. Approval of Minutes

- J. Davis made a motion to approve minutes from the May 8 meeting. C. Graffy seconded.
Motion carried.

C. Other Business

1. Continue to work on critical outstanding items in Article 7 and Article 12

- Gammon began by providing an overview of the memo provided to the subcommittee, also attached to these minutes.
- Sub-committee discussed the recommendation of modifying the definition of specimen tree to 18" DBH for large maturity hardwoods.
 - Staff added that reducing the definition of specimen tree will increase the amount of total specimen trees within any project but this may not provide the results this sub-committee is looking for. This could give a developer the opportunity to meet the tree save requirements by saving more smaller trees and removing larger trees. Changing the definition of specimen tree will not necessarily reduce mitigation requests.
 - Staff encouraged the sub-committee to focus on the questions they are trying to resolve. Does the committee want to save more trees (amending tree save

requirements and possibility definitions)? Does the committee want to reduce tree save mitigation? Committee member expressed a desire to focus on both questions and look at opportunities to increase tree save requirements and strengthen tree save mitigation requirements.

- Committee members decided the following topics would be the focus:
 - Canopy Tree Save Mitigation: specifically that ability to count trees planted in the buffer as mitigation
 - Specimen Tree Save Mitigation: specifically increasing the percentage of the caliper used to calculate mitigation (currently 30% of the caliper is mitigated)
 - 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.)
- Staff to provide 2-4 examples of projects and demonstrate how some of the variables may change by increasing tree save requirements or decreasing definition of specimen tree.
- Items the committee would like to explore in more detail but recognize are not top priority:
 - Map of developable land in Huntersville. Where are the opportunities for tree save?
 - Tree Preservation addressed in the Community Plan update and other opportunities to educate community about tree preservation
 - Updates to the Town’s Tree and Shrub list
 - Parcel in Huntersville that are in the State Forestry Program.

D. Adjourn at 7:01 PM

Meeting Schedule

Upcoming Meetings		
June	Thursday, June 27 5:00 p.m.	
July	Wednesday, July 10 5:30 pm	Thursday, July 25 5:00 pm