



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

December 4, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

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

Attendance: Commissioner Dan Boone, Planning Board Members: Frank Gammon, Jennifer Davis, Catherine Graffy, Susan Thomas. Staff Member: Brad Priest

- A. Comments from Audience (5 minutes per person allocation)
- Kim Aichele recommended obtaining data on the tree removal for each development and each year in Huntersville to find the effect on the overall tree canopy of the town. Discussion ensued on data Kim researched concerning trees removed of specific past developments.
- B. Approval of Minutes
- Jennifer Davis motioned to approve the September 12, 2019 meeting's minutes. Frank Gammon seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Other Business
- Brad Priest updated the committee on discussions with the consultants for the 2040 Community Plan. It seems that the consultants have staff members that are going to focus on the existing conditions of the town in their scope. Part of that will likely be overall tree canopy of the town. It appears through the 2040 plan process we can achieve an understanding of tree canopy statistics within our zoning limits.
 - Discussion ensued on the results of the Planning Board meeting where the committee's recommendation was discussed. After discussion, it was recommended that elements such as becoming a Tree City USA, understanding tree canopy statistics, and determining whether or not an arborist can be added to town staff would be inserted into the 2040 community plan review process. Committee members were encouraged to attend the public meetings and contact Dave Hill in the Planning Department to insert those discussion topics in future meetings. Kim Aichele, as a member of the 2040 steering committee would also bring those topics up in further steering committee meetings.
 - The committee discussed whether or not there were any ordinance related items that needed to be added to their existing recommendation. After discussion, consensus recommendation was that they would leave it to staff to administratively enforce and update the approved tree and shrub list. It was recommended to contact Davidson to obtain their list and remove any invasive species currently on the town's list.
 - It was also recommended that an amendment to the ordinance be made that requires developers to use plants from the approved Huntersville tree and shrub list, and only allow

variations as approved by staff which are non-invasive and adaptable to the area.

- Next Steps:
 - Committee members will individually contact Dave Hill to introduce potential tree save related discussions into the 2040 plan scope.
 - Staff will add the tree and shrub list requirement into the drafted text amendment application (which includes 100% caliper mitigation, specimen definition down from 24 inches to 18 inches, max 50% of mitigation trees to be in the buffer).
 - Staff will schedule the drafted text amendment application to go before the Huntersville Ordinance Advisory Board (HOAB) on February 6, 2020. Staff would then call a public hearing March 2 for a public hearing on April 6.
 - The next committee meeting will be February 6 at 5 pm to discuss the feedback provided at the HOAB meeting.

D. Adjourn

Meeting Schedule

- February 6, 2020 at 5 pm.