

Tree Board Meeting
Wednesday August 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Town of Weaverville
State of North Carolina

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

The Tree Board for the Town of Weaverville held a regular meeting on August 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Weaverville, N.C.

Present: Chairman Russ Kantner, Vice Chair Peter Stanz, regular members Greg Sanfilippo, Caroline Lord, Jeff Colavecchia and Inger Stallmann-Jorgensen and alternate members Caleb Hudson and Gary Harmon.

Absent: excused Pauline Griffith

Staff: Tamara Mercer, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chairman Kantner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Kantner

Without objection, Chairman Kantner moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

2. Approval of Minutes- 6/10/2024 & 7/2/2024

Gary Harmon moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 10, 2024 and July 2, 2024. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

3. Public Works Tree Maintenance, Director Pennell at 9/4/24

Town Clerk Mercer stated that Public Works Director Pennell will attend the September 4th Tree Board meeting and he requested questions be proposed from among the membership.

Tree Board members questions for Public Works Department:

- 1) Is there an arborist on Public Works staff?
 - 2) How does Public Works choose the species for tree planting?
 - 3) Does Public Works have a tree preference?
 - 4) Is there a tree supplier for the Town?
 - 5) At intersection locations, what is the normal maintenance cycle?
 - 6) Does PW have new landscaping project plans?
 - 7) What is the budget for landscaping and tree planting?
 - 8) Can the Tree Board request that no asphalt be installed at the right-of-way along Alabama Avenue where there is currently gravel?
 - 9) Does the town currently have a heritage tree program, or have they had one in the past? (A possible College Street tree with a plaque)
4. Powell Bill map, street information data, Town Rights-of-way GIS mapping, native species and acceptable vegetation Clerk Mercer

Ms. Mercer provided the board with the maps of the town supplied by the State for the jurisdiction of the NCDOT rights-of-way tree maintenance. She noted that the town primarily maintains the trees on Alabama Avenue. There was discussion regarding the improvement project on Alabama and the surrounding area as well as review of the approved shrubs species list.

Ms. Lord suggested there be a Tree Board table at the Art in Autumn Festival on September 21st in order to educate the public about such topics as: Forest bathing, heat islands, Tree City USA, and Ms. Mercer said she would add tree topping harms and stormwater runoffs PSAs.

Ms. Lord noted that she would share the Asheville Urban Tree Study and other resource links for healthy tree canopies. GreenWorks also has many resources. There was further discussion on hardy species, the rights-of-way on Alabama Avenue, and tree plaques at Lake Louise and in the Nature Park. Ms. Lord added that the Boy Scouts have examples of QR code usage which we could add in town for guided tours. Ms. Mercer will follow-up with the Weaverville Business Association and town staff if we are able to have a set-up prepared for the Tree Board Table at Art in Autumn event.

5. CODE: Ch. 32 & Ch. 2 Sec. 2-176 Duties and Limitations

Review Mission, Priorities, Duties & Timing Discussion

Ms. Mercer reviewed the code for Chapter 32 vegetation and Chairman Kantner reviewed the Code for Chapter 2 Duties and Limitations. Discussion review by members yielded that 1) periodic review of regulations, 6) educational programs, 8) investigate available grants, and 9) a written plan for the care and preservation of trees were all on the high priority list.

An action plan chart will be developed and provided to the members of the Tree Board for the next meeting.

Ms. Jorgensen suggested involvement in the Art Safari events and to add education materials there. The Town's website can include a Tree Board page that further informs the public and introduces the Tree Board and the goals. The tree inventory was discussed as to the scope of the work to conduct a tree survey and assessment of trees in Weaverville.

Mr. Harmon requested that the Planning Director attend the October Tree Board meeting in order to review the administrative procedures for Chapter 32 vegetation, for questions regarding penalties and permitting for tree removal.

Mr. Stanz was concerned about the focus and goals.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, and without objection Mr. Kantner adjourned the meeting at 7: 40 p.m.

Attest:

Tamara Mercer