

**Tree Board Meeting  
Wednesday September 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

**Town of Weaverville  
State of North Carolina**

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

The Tree Board for the Town of Weaverville held a regular meeting on September 4, 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, Jeff Colavecchia, Pauline Griffith and Inger Stallmann-Jorgensen and alternate member Gary Harmon.

Absent: excused Caroline Lord and Caleb Hudson

Staff: Tamara Mercer, Town Clerk and Dale Pennell, Public Works Director

1. Call to Order

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Kantner

*Without objection, Inger Stallmann-Jorgensen moved to approve the agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously 6-0.*

2. Approval of Minutes- August 7, 2024

*Without objection Chairman Kantner moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 7, 2024. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.*

3. Public Works Tree Maintenance, Director Pennell presented his Public Works Department Report to the Tree Board.

Tree Board members' questions for Public Works Department:

1) Is there an arborist on Public Works staff?

Director Pennell stated that there are staff members with multiple years of experience in landscaping and related fields. One experienced landscape supervisor has 20-plus years of tenure with the Town of Weaverville. None are certified as an arborist, but staff works with consultants.

2) How does Public Works choose the species for tree planting?

The department selects trees from the town's recommended species list in Section 36-157 of the Town Code of Ordinances. The only exception is the planting of Japanese Maples for specific requests, such as the recent request as a memorial tree at the Community Center. The donor can request memorial benches at \$1,000 or trees for a fee of \$250.00.

3) Does Public Works have a tree preference?

The department mostly plants native trees that are mast-bearing for wildlife benefits, for example Dogwood, Oak and Holly trees. They choose trees that serve a dual purpose.

4) Is there a tree supplier for the Town?

Primarily local nurseries such as Reems Creek Valley Nursery (the Town receives a 20% discount) and Jesse Israel Nursery are suppliers. On occasion Hendersonville Site One provides bulk trees such as the 40 arborvitaes and hollies which were planted around the pickleball courts.

5) At intersection locations, what is the normal maintenance cycle?

The maintenance crews travel all over town as daily and weekly site checks. When an intersection has site line/site distance problems, they report the location in the system. Supervisors schedule street crew trimmers to trim the overgrown limbs. Likewise, the town responds to complaints from residents. Compliant driven reports are helpful to the

department. Some intersections need 'cutbacks yearly, others have 2-3 times a year maintenance schedule.

6) Does PW have new landscaping project plans?

No plans are budgeted at this time, and none suggested specifically to Public Works.

7) What is the budget for landscaping and tree planting?

The current budget for fiscal year 2024-25 Grounds Maintenance is \$474,511.00, which includes \$85,000 for a new overflow parking lot for Lake Louise situated near the Public Works Department on Quarry Road. A balance of \$389,511 is for full-time and part-time personnel, equipment, and vehicle maintenance, fuel, utilities, supplies, special events, etc. Any tree planting needed is budgeted from Supplies/Materials line item.

8) Can the Tree Board request that no asphalt be installed at the right-of-way along Alabama Avenue where there is currently gravel?

The Alabama Street paving project was completed August 26<sup>th</sup> for milling and concrete sealing operation, which included the rights-of-way. NCDOT roadway maintenance procedures and rights-of-way was reviewed by Director Pennell, he also explained the town's ditch and rights-of-way maintenance along roadways.

9) Does the town currently have a heritage tree program, or have they had one in the past? College Street tree plaque

Director Pennell confirmed the plaque at the Oak tree at the intersection of College Street and Church Street. There was a plaque on the Sycamore tree in the rock circle at Town Hall which was removed in March of 2024 due to the diseased tree being removed.

Additional statistics since 2017:

Community Center- over 300 plants planted on building and grounds, including annuals, perennials, Hawthorns, Hollies, Sugar Maples, Dogwoods, and service berries.

Town Hall- Rhododendrons, Hosta, Azaleas, Flox, and Japanese Maple.

Memorials- service berry in the Nature Park and Japanese Maple at the Community Cetner.

Fire Department- Japanese Maple, Maples, and landscaping

Public Works Department- Dogwoods and Crepe Myrtles

Outdoor Recreation Complex- Arborvitae (20), Holly (20), Pink Dogwoods

Arbor Day:

- 2018- Pink Dogwood in the Nature Park
- 2019- White Dogwood in the Nature Park
- 2020 Red Maple in the Nature Park in honor of past-Mayor Bett Stroud
- 2021 American Holly at Town Hall
- 2022 Pink Dogwood at Lake Louise
- 2023 Red Plum at Community Cetner in honor of past-Mayor Al Root
- 2024 White Oak at Town Hall rock circle in honor of past-Mayor Dottie Sherrill

Code of Ordinance, Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 4. Chart Priorities and Goals- Clerk Mercer

Ms. Mercer provided the board with Goal Chart and there was discussion, and the members polled for their highest priority inserted into the diagram action table.

4. 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.

There was the action plan chart reviewed as developed by a polling of each Tree Board member. The provided goals and priority chart to be presented to the Board at the next meeting. (October meeting was cancelled)

5. Art in Autumn September 20<sup>th</sup>

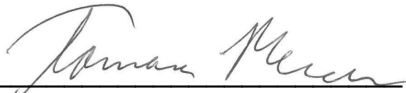
Interested members to attend the event consisting of Inger, Gary, Greg, and Pauline.

Mr. Harmon suggested the Board conduct further species list review and update the species list. There was discussion on native draught resistant plants, and that in the 1990's the Town had an Appearance Committee.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, and without objection Mr. Kantner adjourned the meeting at 7: 50 p.m.

Attest:



Tamara Mercer