



Tree Board - Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2026

The Tree Board regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 30 S. Main Street, Weaverville, N.C.

1. Call to Order

Tree Board Members Present: Chairman Russ Kantner, Gary Harmon, Caleb Hudson, Inger Stallman Jorgensen, William Mobley, Patrice Sheehan, and Andrew Shelton.

Absent: Pauline Griffith

Staff Present: Town Clerk Tamara Mercer

2. Adopt or Amend Agenda

Gary Harmon moved to adopt the agenda.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

3. Election of Officers

Caleb Hudson nominated Russ Kantner as chair of the Tree Board.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

Inger Stallman Jorgensen nominated Gary Harmon as vice chair of the Tree Board.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

4. Adopt 2026 Meeting Schedule

Russ Kantner moved to adopt the 2026 meeting schedule of the Tree Board.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Caleb Hudson moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 5, 2025.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

6. **Arbor Day Foundation Truist Bank Grant update**

Arbor Day Foundation Truist Bank Grant \$35,000

This funding was used to conduct the tree inventory, conduct an overall health assessment of our trees, remove, refurbish and replant trees, as the tree canopy plays a crucial role in air quality, provides habitats for wildlife, and offers recreational opportunities for residents. The data will provide us with a roadmap aiding in the Town's tree management plan. This project satisfies the Tree Board priority goals adopted in December of 2024, as well as the Town of Weaverville Strategic Plan goals.

In October of 2025, Town Council adopted the Town of Weaverville Strategic Plan 2026-29. Whereas the Town recognizes when strategic goals of the community are in alignment with available and planned resources; therefore GOAL 5: Infrastructure and Environmental Resilience objective and initiative #2 states: with guidance from a certified arborist conduct a tree inventory and health assessment for trees on Town property to encourage a healthy tree canopy in conjunction with a certified arborist and tree replacement program.

7. **Arbor Day Program**

There was a general consensus by the Board that the Arbor Day celebration April dates of 4/16 or 4/23 would work and could be held at approximately 9:00 am or 10:00 am at the Lake Louise knoll and Community Center. After input from the Public Works Department for confirmation of the April date, staff can organize the tree planting portion of the event.

Andrew Shelton suggested an art and poetry competition amongst age groups of 7th & 8th graders, and High School students' 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th graders for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place with honorable mention or people's choice awarded. The artwork and poetry to be displayed at the Community Center for the month of April. The Community Center management has agreed to host the artwork pictures and poetry. Inger Stallman added that story tellers could also be incorporated into the program on the theme of Earth Day and Arbor Day. Ribbons and certificates for the students will be given, Reems Creek nursery may donate plants for students, or we may have local businesses such as Yellow Mug provide gift certificates for the students.

Holding the program early may allow for students to bus over to Lake Louise Park and participate in the event. Andrew is taking the lead on this and will provide a flyer to the art schoolteachers in our district regarding the artwork contest.

Arbor Day contest themes were widely discussed and there was a general consensus for two prompts to be given to the students as follows:

- 'If I were a Tree'

- 'My Favorite Tree (poetree)'

8. Other Business

Invasive Plant removal day was held on December 10th in the Main Street Nature Park, and we had 11 volunteers attend. The anonymous funding for the project will include paying arborists to continue to remove invasive species in the park and the Town plans to hold another volunteer day in the spring. Other educational events discussed included holding a workshop in the spring with experts providing the public with information on native species.

Andrew Shelton has followed up with the Black Mountain Town Manager's office and groundskeeping departments in order to obtain their instructions against Asplund over-trimming trees in the rights-of-ways. Mr. Shelton noted that the trees in Black Mountain are healthier and there does not appear to be over trimming by the utility company.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business and without objection, Chair Kantner adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



Town Clerk, Tamara Mercer
