



Tree Board Meeting Minutes- July 1, 2026

The Tree Board regularly scheduled meeting was held on Wednesday, July 1, 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, Patrice Sheehan, Gary Harmon, Caleb Hudson, Andrew Shelton, and Pauline Griffith.

Absent: Inger Stallman Jorgensen, William Mobley, and Eleanor Mrozkowski.

Staff Present: Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Jackson (also serving as Board Clerk)

Keith Aitkin, City of Asheville Urban Forester

2. Adopt or Amend Agenda

Patrice Sheehan moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Without discussion, all voted in favor of the motion.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Andrew Shelton moved to approve the meeting minutes from the June 3 2026, meeting as presented. Without discussion, all voted in favor of the motion.

Carried unanimously. 7-0.

4. Arbor Day Foundation Tree Give-Away

Tamara Mercer was able to secure additional trees through the Arbor Foundation. The Board will be at the Main Street Nature Park concert on July 11 and August 8 to give away trees to the public, including black tupelo, white oak, red oak, American beech, red maples (all in 1-gallon pots), spice bush, and various perennials. The Town will set-up the tent and table and Mike will announce the opportunity to the audience. Volunteers are Patrice and Russ for July 11, and Gary, Patrice, and Russ for August 8.

6. Tree Board Ordinance Action Table with Priorities

Members continued their review of each category on the action table and assigned numeric priorities.

Keith Aitken discussed possible grant opportunities. An Urban Forestry grant opens in January 2027 and is awarded in the Fall. He indicated that there are additional Helene money for tree maintenance, planting, education of staff (arborist), trainings, etc., which could be used to implement the master plan established by the Davey Group. He also indicated that there is a possibility for collaboration with City of Asheville in pursuing some of those grant funds.

Jackson indicated that grant funds were used for invasive species removal in the Nature Park and more may be available. Sheehan noted that there may be grant/volunteer opportunities with area non-profits.

It appeared to the Board that the new initiative for this year is the heritage tree program.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be focused on discussing the purpose and goals of a heritage tree program and reviewing sample programs.

To allow enough time for the Board and staff to study and collect relevant information on the heritage tree program *there was unanimous consensus to cancel the August 5 meeting.*

With several Board members not available for the September 2 meeting, *there was unanimous consensus to cancel the September 2 meeting and schedule a special called meeting to conduct regular business of the Board for Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00pm*

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, and without objection Chairman Kantner adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Board Clerk

Approved 9/9/2026