

Southport Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

10 October 2023

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. In attendance were members Scott A. Len, Roxie Smith, Bif Bream, Jerry Donaldson, Marianne Huntley, Dina Rousset, Michael McGhee and Fred Fiss. “Mo” Meehan represented City Staff. Paul and Maria Swenson were also present.

Paul and Maria Swenson presented their plan for 106 acres at Ferry Road/Moore Street. They advised the committee that they had recently purchased the large tract with the goal of preserving the majority of the area as a forest. They have hired Steve Hutchison to create a forest management plan. This will include harvesting approximately 1000 trees in order to let the hardwoods on the site grow properly. Two small structures will be built on the site and the remainder will be forest. The committee thanked and commended them for creating and preserving the urban forest.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Old/Recurring Business:

Ordinance/Permits/City topics – (Maureen) – review of ordinance and how to make it easier to use continue with goal of making it fair to property owners and also protecting/preserving trees

New Business:

- **Live Oak Society: Newsletter and Social Media posts out. 19 additional applications received – 20 total. Next step is to prepare applications on town owned land and right of way. The committee also discussed a contest where elementary school students would name the trees in the application. Further discussion and plan development at November meeting.**
- **“Tree Champion” program – no new nominations. Promotion continues and plan is to present awards once per year as part of Arbor Day Festivities. Web Page: “Tree Champion” tab now up and available.**

- Franklin Square Park – Scott met with City Mgr on Aug 14, All Franklin Park trees tagged on August 15 and NCFS Forester Justin Bennett visited August 16. Survey completed of all trees. (
- Next step for Franklin Square Park is that City will engage Bartlett Tree for a more detailed survey of the trees. This is scheduled in November.
- NCFS visit is scheduled to visit SPT in Jan 2024 to survey trees at Old Burying Ground. We will Need to tag trees prior to visit. Scott would like to complete in November and will ask for volunteers at that time.
- Scott urged the committee that it is Time to step up our game via Education. He recommended the Urban Forester class as a great place to start. 1 -2 hours over 7 days all online.
- Tree Planting/Maintenance; A red maple will be added to Taylor Field in memory of Dory Dutton’s father who passed away. Nuttals, maples and live oaks planted earlier in year are doing well. Live Oak on Garrison is being closely monitored and will be fortified again.
- Tree Removals: Dead WO on Willis (Wadsworth, pending); Live Oak (317 Clarendon); dying laurel oak (202 W. West); 2 Laurel Oaks (E. Nash & Fodale); Several Laurel Oaks (Northwood Cemetery, storm)
- Consultations: Wilson (Brunswick St), measure LO’s; Worked with NCFS Forester Justin Bennett Aug. 16; Berry (Bay St), fertilizer query; Simon (412 N. Lord), dying arborvitae..
-

Next Regular meeting is Tuesday November 14, 2023 ITMH: 1001