

# Minutes

## Southport Forestry Committee

January 9, 2024; Indian Trail Meeting Hall

The meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. by the Chair.

Members in Attendance: Scott Len (Chair); Bif Bream; Jerry Donaldson; Fred Fiss; Marianne Huntley; Heather Kos; Roxie Smith

Administration Representatives & Guests: Michael McGee; Karen Mostellar; "HP" (Harlan Pyles)

Before beginning the order of business, Scott introduced "HP" who will be the new code enforcement officer and staff liaison to the Committee.

### Old/Recurring Business

**Minutes:** It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the December 12, 2023 minutes be accepted as prepared.

**Ordinance/Permits/City Topics:** On behalf of Maureen ("Mo") Meehan, Scott shared that the part of the penalty that had been levied for clear cutting on the lot and the removal of City trees at 683 Carolina Bay had been adjusted to \$18,845 plus mitigation.

**Tree City Application:** The City has been notified that it has earned Tree City status for the 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row. It will be celebrated/highlighted at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day celebration. Jerry has a possible speaker for the event.

### Member Comments/Questions; Open Forum Period:

Heather shared several items from social media, including the building up of the soil level at The Oaks. HP noted that there had been a meeting to address this and that it was part of creating a watershed with a more natural flow.

Bip called attention to the laurel oak in the 100 block of Leonard.

Fred expressed concern that there were trucks parked close to the trees on the median near the City Gym during the recent basketball tournament. He emailed the City manager and acknowledged that this was more of a police issue.

Marianne encouraged the group to consider pursuing some method of alerting prospective buyers and contractors to the need for building and tree permits, possibly via the Brunswick County Association of Realtors. Roxie agreed to reach out to them. Fred indicated that he will contact the Builders Association.

Marianne also flagged that it is time to think about identifying a Tree Champion(s) to be recognized at the Arbor Day celebration. She recommended that the Neisler Foundation be considered for one of these awards.

### New Business

**Update on Franklin Square Park:** The Park was closed on December 21st. Bartlett's Level 3 assessment was done the first week of January. It included tomography and resistance drilling. It is expected that the report will be ready in about three weeks and will be presented at a February meeting of the Aldermen.

**Steering Committee for City Comprehensive Plan:** Scott is representing the Forestry Committee.

**NCFS Tree Survey at Old Burying Ground:** It is now planned for late February/sometime in March. The trees must be tagged prior to the survey, and Scott, Bif, Roxie and Marianne have volunteered to help.

**Tree Planting 2024:** The list has been finalized and the City will be picking up the trees for planting in early/mid-February.

### Regular Business

**Tree Removals:** A dead willow oak on Willis has been taken down and one on Wadsworth is pending.

**Tree Care:** The bulk of the straps were removed from the Taylor Field trees on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Tree Pruning:** The Grounds crew continues pruning street trees.

**Consultations:** NTR.

**Web Page:** The "Tree Champion" tab is now up and available on the Forestry Committee website.

**Tree Donation:** NTR

**Funds Donation:** A \$1,000 donation from the Neisler Foundation has been received.

**Education/Publicity:** Live Oak Society information continues to be publicized, and letters, articles and editorials on the topic of Franklin Square Park appear weekly.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at ITMH.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.