

Minutes

Southport Forestry Committee

February 13, 2024; Indian Trail Meeting Hall

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

Members in Attendance: Scott Len (Chair); Fred Fiss; Marianne Huntley; Heather Kos; Dina Rousset; Roxie Smith
Administration Representatives & Guests: Michael McGee; Maureen (“Mo”) Meehan; Karen Mostellar; Harlan (“HP”) Pyles;

Old/Recurring Business

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the January 9, 2024 minutes be accepted as prepared.

Ordinance/Permits/City Topics: It was reported that the hearing for the 9th Street infraction will be the final notice hearing. Absent a reversal, the permit will be pulled.

Member Comments/Questions; Open Forum Period:

Marianne reported that during the tree planting a woman came up to her and expressed the wish to get one of the trees next year.

Fred raised the question about planting trees in Franklin Square and it was agreed that that should be handled as a separate initiative.

He also reported that he had reached out to the Builder’s Association and read his draft to the group. He has not heard back from them yet.

He updated on the issue that he had raised last month of the trucks parking in the median on East-West Street. He said that he had reported it three times, including sending a letter that was read at the Alderman’s meeting. The matter needs enforcement from the Police Department. Alternately, the City could extend the marine rope as a passive way of enforcing a parking ban.

Roxie indicated that she had reached out to the Brunswick Realtors Association but had also not heard anything yet.

Dina raised a question about the construction site off 11th Street and the developer’s agreement to install trees and sidewalks. The City is working with the developer to follow up.

Scott observed that the challenge to date has been that there has been no enforcement on the back end of agreements made during the initial approval process. The consensus was that one year after completion might be reasonable timing for the follow-up.

New Business

Arbor Day: It will be on April 26th on Taylor Field. Jerry has contacted a speaker who has agreed to do it. It will be the 20th year of Southport’s being a Tree City, so it would be a good idea to highlight that too.

Naturefest will be April 27th and the Committee will have a table there again.

Update on Franklin Square Park: Scott reported that the Level 3 report has been submitted and will be presented on the 4th. He will circulate a copy to the Committee. It will likely recommend removal of up to 6 trees and cabling of as many as 6 others. The goal is to address the liability issues so that it can reopen.

Steering Committee for City Comprehensive Plan: Scott said that the first meeting has been held and that it focused on primarily addressing set-up matters.

NCFS Tree Survey at Old Burying Ground: Scott shared that the Forest Service is having staffing issues. There are only two employees in the urban and community forestry initiative. Since the 107 trees have been tagged, the Committee could use the Bartlett criteria to do its own assessment in the meantime.

Tree Planting 2024: Scott began by thanking Michael for bringing the whole crew to help with the planting. Half were done today and the other half will be done tomorrow.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at ITMH.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.