

**Town of James Island**  
**Minutes of the Tree Council**

**March 11, 2025**

**Present:** David Tomblin, Natalie Rumph, Robin Hardin & Town Council Liaison, Mayor Brook Lyon

**Absent:** Julie Hallman, Paul Cantrell, Jenny Welch & Staff Liaison, Keith LaDeaux (stopped in to say he would be back with us asap)

**Tree Award Nominations & Presentations:**

Glover's in Lighthouse Point are gone for a few weeks but Brook will help arrange a time to give them their certificate. Keith's neighbors will be given their Tree Award upon his return.

Julie is going to keep a list of the trees we've previously made awards to and, also, a calendar of the trees we would like to award throughout the year. She noted that there is no record of the type of trees we've awarded, just owners' names and address.

Suggested printing the Award certificates on a nicer heavier stock. Brook believes that the Town has this on hand.

**Spring 2025 Educational Tree Planting at James Island High School:**

Julie and David have evaluated the site and decided to put (4) understory trees on the "drive isle". Originally, a tree for the high school's Sun Garden was planned but they realized this would be too much shade. Trees will probably be *Chionanthus Virginicus*, "Fringe Tree". They're excellent pollinators. (4) fifteen gallon trees can be purchased from Roots & Shoots for \$120./each.

The presentation will be made on Friday, April 25, 2-3:30pm. Natalie will reach out to someone at Roots and Shoots to come give an educational program as part of the presentation.

This will be our Spring project.

Brook asked if we were still considering holding a Tree Giveaway at Lighthouse Point's annual picnic. Due to Tree Council members' busy schedules this time of year, this isn't doable. A citrus and pecan tree giveaway will be planned for October or November along with the Town Market. We hope to partner with Slow Foods on this.

**Review TOJI TAC's Budget & Financial Status:**

Discussed TAC's remaining budget and how to spend these funds before June 30. A popular idea was to put these funds towards Mill Park's needs, e.g. trees, lawn mowers.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Brooks followed up with our suggestion to ask Danny Skinner, the Town's Arborist, to become a member of the Tree Council. Danny said that, while he is happy to join us for an occasional meeting, he doesn't have the time to become a member.

Danny also recommends cutting vines at their base and spraying with pesticide and not pulling them down from the trees.

Kristen Cane is going to attend our May meeting to discuss the Town's Tree Ordinance.

Officers are to be appointed at our next meeting in March.

***The next meeting of TOJI TAC will be Tuesday, April 8, 5pm.***