

**Town of James Island**  
**Minutes of the Tree Advisory Council**  
**April 14, 2026, 5 p.m.**

**Present:** Chair - Robin Hardin, Lynda Glover, Bridget Lussier, Council Liaison – Mayor Brook Lyon, Susan Milliken, Town Staff liaison - Parker Richardson, Town Councilmember Julia Drayton-Crumblin. Absent: David Tomblin, Paul Cantrell, Jenny Welch, Val Henshaw

**March 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** Bridget L. made a motion to approve the March 10, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Robin H. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Tree Awards: Presentations, Nominations & Tree Medallions:**

**Dogwood Trees Awarded Canopy Awards:** (3) dogwoods were awarded Tree Canopy Awards on Saturday, April 4, 2026. Awardees received signs, certificates and medallions from Chair Hardin. Photos of the dogwoods have been added to the Town’s website. Dogwoods awarded - (1) Dogwood on Trapier Dr., Fort Johnson Estates, Kathy Davis (2) Dogwood on Fort Sumter Dr., Lawton Bluff, Barr Family and (3) Dogwood on Creekside Dr., Lighthouse Point, Perkins Family. Thanks expressed to Bridget L, Susan M. and Chair Hardin for locating and awarding these dogwoods, also to David T for the nomination of Barr’s dogwood.\*\*\*\*Chair Hardin delivered Tree Medallions to all past Tree Canopy Award winners on April 4, 2026. The TAC thanked Chair Hardin. One tree that won a canopy award in the past had been misidentified. The tree description has been corrected on the Town’s website: Loblolly Bay Magnolia tree, Giacinto Family, Darwin St. (awarded in June 2023).

**First Baptist Church Tree Award** – Tree Steward Award Presentation will be awarded to the church on Sunday, April 19, at 12 noon after the church service. All TAC members are invited to attend the ceremony at the large live oak on the corner of Dills Bluff Rd and Camp Rd. Mayor Lyon will get a gold hammer for the TAC for the tree medallions.

**Future Tree Awards:** The TAC will look for award-worthy crape myrtles to nominate for canopy award as these bloom in the summer. Chair Hardin asked if Parker R could make a Tree Steward Award certificate(s) similar to the Canopy of Distinction Award certificate made and duplicated by Natalie Rumph. Parker did a great job and Chair Hardin will have the certificate framed for this Sunday’s presentation. Send all tree award photos to Mayor Lyon to post on the Town’s social media pages and to Mike Hemmer to post on the Tree Awards page on Town’s website. We will check with tree awardees re. having their names and street addresses on the Town’s website.

**Future Tree Giveaways:** The TAC previously agreed that the Fall 2026 TAC Tree Giveaway will be focused on fruit trees to give away at the Friday, Nov. 6th Town Market. Fruit trees to give away will include: 1 gallon Meyer Lemon trees and 3-gallon assorted fruit trees. Mayor Lyon has discussed this order with Hyam’s and made the order for trees to arrive prior to the Nov 6 Town Market. Current TAC funds on hand: \$3,072.21. The TAC discussed whether to go ahead and use these funds to

finalize the order for (200) fruit trees now for the Nov. 6 giveaway. Motion made by Chair Hardin to use the remainder of the TAC 2025-2026 budget funds to order the fruit trees from Hyam's now; Second by Julia D-C. Discussion included the plan to go ahead and pay Hyam's for fruit trees, to be ordered and to arrive prior to the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Market; and use a portion of next year's TAC budget funds if the cost ends up being more. The TAC will use a few fruit trees for the December 2026 Arbor Day planting, first Friday in Dec. 2026. (Plan--plant fruit trees for Arbor Day at Mill Point Park). Motion passed unanimously to use the remainder of 2025-26 budget funds to order fruit trees from Hyam's. Discussion continued re. the idea of another fruit tree giveaway in February 2027.

**Spring Educational Tree Planting - Camp Road Middle School Students:** This event was held on March 19, 10:30 a.m., and went very well. Chair Hardin commended David Tomblin for doing such a great job site planning, delivering the trees, soil amendments and equipment, and effectively educating the students about trees and planting them. She also noted the enthusiasm and professionalism of the two teachers, Heidi Stanford and David Stanford, who coordinated the project on behalf of Camp Road Middle School. Additionally, she thanked Mayor Lyon, those who attended and Paisano's for providing the pizza. Thanks expressed to Chair Hardin for providing cookies and drinks. The TAC discussed another spring educational planting with Camp Road Middle School for 2027 as they have a lot of space for trees. Chair Hardin will contact the teachers with this idea. Motion by Julia D-C to plan a 2027 spring planting with Camp Road MS, seconded by Susan M. Unanimously approved.

**Grant Funding Opportunity:** Bridget L. passed out to TAC members a packet of documents relating to a grant opportunity through the Urban and Community Forestry Program/SC Forestry Commission. Grant application is due May 15<sup>th</sup>. The grant funds would be used for tree replacement, tree care for damaged trees; with tree damages and loss as a result of named storms hitting SC between 2022 and 2024. Another grant opportunity that is possible would involve establishing a community orchard on public lands. After discussion, motion was made by Chair Hardin for Bridget and Susan M. to work on SC Forestry grant application for May 15<sup>th</sup>, second by Julia D-C, unanimously passed. The TAC will be updated on these efforts at future meetings.

**2026-2027 Calendar of Events for TAC:** The TAC discussed next (fiscal) year's events. November 6, 2026 - Town Market – Fruit Tree Giveaway. TAC will meet in May and June; we will take off from meeting in July and August 2026. Robin H. will continue as Chair in 2026-2027. The TAC needs Vice-Chair for 2026-2027. The council will discuss the Vice-Chair position at the May meeting. Susan M. agreed to continue as Secretary for 2026-2027.

**For the Good of the Order:** Mayor Lyon invited the TAC to the groundbreaking for the new Arts and Community Center on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 11 a.m.

The next meeting of the TAC will be May 12, 2026.

Meeting adjourned.