

**Town of James Island**  
**Tree Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 4:30pm**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Garrett Milliken (Environment & Beautification Committee Chair), David Tomblin (Appointed by Dan Boles), Kathy Woolsey (Appointed by Mayor Woolsey), Robin Hardin (Appointed by Garrett Milliken)  
**Absent Members:** Paul Cantrell, Jenny Welch, Amy Fabri

Meeting commenced at 4:31pm

**I. Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Kathy Woolsey; Second by Robin Hardin.  
Motion carried

**II. Purchase of Canopy of Distinction and Tree Steward Signs**

Garrett showed off the new Tree Steward sign. Criteria for the Award need to be established and published on the Nomination Form. David Tomblin will research language used by other municipalities.

Kathy Woolsey has sighted an outstanding live oak tree and all agree it should be the recipient of 1<sup>st</sup> Canopy of Distinction Award. Committee members will keep eyes out for other excellent trees. It was suggested that flowering trees, e.g. Crepe Myrtles, be nominated during their flowering season and evergreen trees be nominated during the Christmas holiday season. Garrett will work on wording for the Canopy Tree Award.

Garrett suggested a certificate be made to present to Award tree owners and a photo taken of owners in front of their trees to post on Town's website.

**III. Update on Tree Survey**

Garrett will promote Tree Survey Internships at the College of Charleston this fall with plans to review applications and select interns this December.

**IV. Review of TOJI Tree Ordinance and Discussion**

Kristen Crane was commended for her work preparing the helpful spreadsheet of local municipalities' Tree Ordinances. She did not have additional input but would like to look at, and consider, mitigation plans.

Prepared tree lists need more work to present to developers. Kathy Woolsey suggested strong emphasis on local trees. Many developers are not from this area and unfamiliar with local vegetation. Garrett will assimilate tree lists and have reviewed by David and Kathy.

Kathy and David noted that some desirable trees are very hard to find right now.

Kathy Woolsey noted she likes the idea of planting a tree vs. paying the Town's \$25. cutting fee.

Garrett reviewed his ideas for expansion of Tree Protection for James Island:  
*Historic Tree:* Rare designation for exceptional trees that merit special care and preservation.

*Grand Tree:* Keep the same definition as we have always used.

*Landmark Tree:* Trees >18" DBH (excluding pines).

*Understory Tree:* >18" as listed.

Garrett noted that we would consider coming up with our own terminology. Kathy Woolsey suggested "Understory" be replaced with "Small" as "Understory" is a forestry term and may be confusing.

Garrett noted that there is a lot of tree cutting done on Sundays, when TOJI's Code Enforcement Officer is not working. There is also confusion as to which municipality the property is in where the tree cutting is taking place. Garrett suggested that a Permit be acquired and posted well ahead of time in front of tree to be cut and recourse established when the Permit is not acquired and posted.

#### **V. Tree Seedling Program Update/Distribution Plan**

Kathy and Garrett have tree seedlings ready to go for Arbor Day.

#### **VI. Arbor Day 12/3/21**

Garrett has spoken with Town Administrator and Mayor about the idea of helping plant trees around the Town's new Cultural Center. Kathy noted that some trees have already been planted around the perimeter.

Kathy shared her idea for having a reception when Art Exhibits change in the Cultural Center and stressing trees/nature.

Garrett noted that, in years past, we have encouraged Arbor Day be included in Island schools' curriculums. He will pursue that for Arbor Day 2021.

Meeting Adjourned 5:10pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 9, 4:30pm