

**Town of James Island  
Tree Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 5:30 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Garrett Milliken (Environment & Beautification Committee Chair), David Tomblin (Appointed by Dan Boles), Amy Fabri (Appointed by Troy Mullinax), Paul Cantrell & Jenny Welch (Appointed by Cynthia Mignano), Kathy Woolsey (Appointed by Mayor Woolsey), Robin Hardin and Tony Zerega

Meeting commenced at 5:30 pm

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Warm welcome to two new members of the council; Robin Hardin and Tony Zerega

**II. Demonstration of GeoThing software**

The Town of James Island acquired GeoThing software. Town Administrator, Ms. Kellahan, demonstrated the tree layer included in the software package. The data inputs can be customized.

It was decided Chairman Milliken and David Tomblin would meet with Brian of GeoThing to explain the committee's objectives and have Brian demonstrate the best way to use the software for the tree survey.

**III. Consideration of Minutes**

Motion to approve June meeting minutes made by David Tomblin and second by Amy Fabri. Motion carried.

**IV. James Island Arboreal Management Program Proposal**

Chairman Milliken opened discussion of the document. Several members had questions on language in the document. Several edits were suggested to the document.

Motion to strike the section with the purpose of the Tree Advisory Council was made by Chairman Milliken with a second by Robin Hardin. The motion carried.

Motion to replace the word "arboreal" with "tree" was made by Chairman Milliken with a second by Robin Hardin. The motion carried.

Additional questions on the document were discussed. The council agreed the best action is to make the edits and send the document back to Mark Johnson for with requested clarifications.

Chairman Milliken made a motion to send the document back to Mark Johnson with a second by Robin Hardin. The motion carried.

#### **V. Discussion of recommendations for the Dominion Contract**

Mr. Zerega and Mrs. Woolsey commented that tree trimming is an extremely dangerous job and by and large, the utility companies do a particularly good job of trimming the trees. Tree trimming is a necessary evil if residents want to have power especially in the Lowcountry with storms and hurricanes.

Mr. Zerega, as the only certified arborist on council, stated it is exceedingly difficult to hold the power companies to ANSI 300 standards with the job they are trying to do.

The Town arborist (Chris) suggested edits to the Dominion contract. Mr. Zerega stated the suggested edits are fine, but the plan needs to be flexible.

Chairman Milliken stated the Dominion crews need better training in pruning practices. The town can make sure trees are taken care of and aren't overly pruned by having certain requirements in the Dominion contract.

Chairman Milliken asked if the contract with suggested edits by the town arborist were acceptable or if the council needed more time to review the document. Council members agreed the document was good to move forward.

Ms. Hardin made a motion to send the Dominion contract to the Town Administrator. Mr. Cantrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **VI. Recommend Tree List**

Mrs. Woolsey sent a list of tree species native to South Carolina. Chairman Milliken suggested the list be divided by trees for specific purposes. For example, live oaks should not be planted under power lines. The list should be placed on the town website as a resource for James Islanders. A section on the website should be devoted to trees including how to plant trees, where to source trees, native species, etc.

Mr. Tomblin is going through the recommended tree list. Chairman Milliken suggested Mr. Tomblin, Mr. Zerega and Mrs. Woolsey form a subcommittee to craft a native tree list with suggestions on different trees for specific purposes and where to plant them. Mrs. Woolsey said the list should be specific to the Lowcountry and compared to the City of Charleston's tree list. She said Mt. Pleasant has a good landscaping plan and should be looked at as a resource as well.

#### **For the good of the order:**

Tree of the Month to recognize a tree with a certificate and sign in front of the tree. Post photos of the tree on the website.

Meeting Adjourned @ 6:50 pm

Next Meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.