

Town of James Island
Minutes of the Tree Advisory Council
June 10, 2025, 5:00 P.M.

Present: Chair Robin Hardin, Natalie Rumph, Valerie Henshaw, Council Liaison, Mayor Brook Lyon, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. Absent: Paul Cantrell, David Tomblin, Jenny Welch, Julie Hallman, and Sam English.

Welcome and Introduction of New Member: Chair Hardin called the meeting to order and welcomed new member, Valerie Henshaw. Chair Hardin thanked Frances Simmons for agreeing to take the minutes. The minutes from the May meeting will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Spring 2025 Educational Tree Planting Evaluation and Plans for 2026: Discussion included:

- Chairman Hardin thanked Julie Holloman, David Tomblin, Natalie Rumph and Roots & Shoots for their work on the successful 2025 Educational Tree Planting at James Island High School. All agreed that a Spring Educational Tree Planting should become an annual event/program on TAC's calendar.
Suggestions for 2026 were made:
 - Gator bags to be provided with all donated trees;
 - Research another James Island school to partner with in 2026, including Stiles Point Elementary and James Island Middle School;
 - Plan for April

Tree Awards – Nominations, Presentations and Record Keeping: Chair Hardin shared the history of the Canopy of Distinction Award. There was discussion on how to make the presentation a more memorable occasion for the recipient and to make the tree more notable to the public. As of now, a certificate is given and a temporary sign is placed by the tree. The committee discussed options on how this could be accomplished. Chair Hardin mentioned that there is no record on the Town's website to recognize the recipient(s). Mayor Lyon will ask Mike Hemmer to create a category on the Town's website regarding this (homeowner picture, and the tree).

Chair Hardin announced there are two outstanding awards to be given. Norty and Lynda Glover, 1214 Lighthouse Blvd., will be presented The Canopy Tree Award for their live oak on Monday, June 16 at 5:00 p.m. Chair Hardin will follow up with Keith LaDeaux to get contact info for owners and tree on Stiles Drive still awaiting the receipt of their Canopy Tree Award. She'll set a time with recipients, Mayor and members for the presentation.

Natalie Rumph volunteered to make Award certificates for upcoming presentations.

Mayor Lyon volunteered to research ideas for more permanent tree signage.

Valerie Henshaw volunteered to consider a logo design for TAC that could be used on our signage.

Discussion on record keeping was tabled until Julie Hallman can attend TAC meeting.

Chairman Hardin will follow up with a call from owners of 1422 Ft Lamar Rd. to come evaluate their live oak for the Canopy Tree Award. Mayor Lyon noted that this property is not in the town. There was discussion about whether to expand the program. Chairman Hardin will follow up with owner, Lourdes Andino.

Hardin shared Susan Milliken's interest in serving on the Council and asked that Frances to invite her to attend the presentation for the Glovers. Mayor Lyon will recommend the appointment of Mrs. Milliken to serve on the Trees Advisory Council at the June 19 Town Council meeting

Tree Giveaways – Tree Advisory Council and Charleston Parks Conservancy:

Two Tree Giveaways are on TAC's calendar:

- 1) The first Tree Giveaway is sponsored by TOJI TAC in conjunction with the Town Market on Friday, November 7. TAC will set up a booth and, if available, distribute Lemon Cling Peach and Pecan trees. Natalie will be in touch with her tree farmer contact in the mid-state. Please mark your calendars to participate.
- 2) The second Tree Giveaway is co-sponsored by Charleston Parks Conservancy and the Town of James Island. This will be a drive through event in January or February and the (3) gallon trees given away will be provided by Charleston Parks Conservancy. Chairman Hardin will reach out to Robert McCombs, Horticulture & Tree Manager, to see what species of trees they are planning to give away.

It was agreed that a SC Arbor Day event will be planned for December.

2025-26 Meeting Schedule: No meeting in July. The next meeting will be held August 12 @ 5:00 p.m.

Spending remaining '24-25 Tree Advisory Council Funds: Mayor Lyon was asked how much was left in the budget and she stated there is \$2,837.57 in the account. Natalie will develop an Amazon wish list of items that could be purchased for our Tree Giveaway tent and display. Chairman Hardin asked Mayor Lyon if there were any tree-related needs the Town has and she noted that a new tailer and pole saw are needed for Mill Point and Pinckney Parks. Members agreed that these purchases were all good use of end-of-the-year funds.

For the Good of the Order: Mayor Lyon and Chair Hardin thanked Valerie Henshaw on becoming a member of the Council.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.