

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
TREE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Town of Sullivan's Island Tree Commission was held at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. All requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Commission members Donovan Glassburn, arrived at 5:35p.m., Mark Miller, Milton Langley and Derek Wade.

Members of the public present:

Staff members present: Charles Drayton, Director of Planning and Zoning, and Jessi Gress, Licensing and Permit Technician.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Langley called the meeting to order and stated that the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law and a quorum of Commission Members were present. There were no known members of media present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2023:** Mr. Wade made a motion to grant approval of the July 24, 2023 Tree Commission Meeting Minutes. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **BOARD DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR AND VICECHAIR:** Mr. Wade made a motion to temporarily allow Mr. Langley to remain as acting Chair until next month's meeting when all the Commission members could be in attendance. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2024 (EXHIBIT 1):** Mr. Wade made a motion to grant approval of the 2024 meeting dates. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS:**

2602 Goldbug Avenue: Gerald J. Benoit requests removal of a healthy, Category 1 live oak tree of 22" in diameter at breast height (DBH). This request is being made in accordance with Zoning Ordinance, Section 21-162 B (Application for tree relocation, or removal and replacement) (PIN #529-06-00-008)

Mr. Drayton stated that the applicant requested to remove 1 Category 1 live oak tree. Mr. Drayton stated that as the arborist's letter indicates, this is a healthy tree. The removal of this tree is the first step in a multi-step process that the homeowner wishes to undertake to move his home from this lot to another lot; as such, staff recommends for the Commission to grant contingent approval with full mitigation, with the contingency that the DRB approves the relocation of the home. If the DRB does not approve moving the home, then the tree would not be removed from the property either.

Mr. Benoit presented his application to the Commission.

Mr. Wade made a motion to grant contingent approval of the tree. There was no second to this motion. Motion denied.

Mr. Langley expressed concern to approve the removal if the tree will not be harmed during the relocation of the home.

Mr. Benoit stated that he is not aware if the tree will or will not be harmed during the location, but this is the request of the property owners.

Mr. Langley made a motion to deny the request for removal of the live oak tree. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. Motion passed 2 to 1. Mr. Wade opposed.

VI. SULLIVAN'S ISLAND TREE FUND

Tree Commission sponsored project: Mr. Drayton listed the following suggest projects that the Commission could consider sponsoring:

1. Updating the elementary school signage in the Maritime Forest.
2. New signage for phase 2 of the Sullivan's Island Nature Trail in Maritime forest.
3. Updated Island-wide tree survey.
4. Beautification planting project
5. RC-1 study of the impacts of the current pruning practices.
6. Maritime forest signage.

Mr. Wade suggested that the Commission discuss these matters when all members are in attendance; he also added a suggestion that funds could be expended to remove invasive species from the island.

Mr. Glassburn suggested that he would prefer to see the funds go to improving the island not maintenance as maintenance funds should be provided by the town.


Updates to the Mitigation fees for healthy tree removals: Mr. Drayton suggested that the Commission members move to increase the mitigation fees associated with tree removals. Mr. Drayton stated that currently it is \$115.00 per inch but would like to increase the cost to \$200.00 per inch.

Mr. Miller felt that \$200.00 was not substantial and suggested double the mitigation fees which would be \$230.00.

Mr. Glassburn suggested charging \$230.00 for all trees including pine trees. Mr. Wade was not in favor of increasing the mitigation costs for pine trees to \$230.00 and suggested pine trees be increased to \$76.00.

Mr. Glassburn made a motion to increase mitigation fees to \$76.00 for pine tree removals and \$230.00 for all other tree removals. Mr. Langley seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURN: Mr. Langley made a motion to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Mr. Wade seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.


Milton Langley Chairman


Date

**2024 TREE COMMISSION MEETINGS
TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND**

All meetings held in Council Chambers
Town Hall, 2056 Middle Street

4th Monday of every month 5:00 p.m.

Submittal Dates:

*December 21, 2023
January 26, 2024
March 1, 2024
March 29, 2024
April 26, 2024
May 31, 2024
June 28, 2024
July 26, 2024
August 30, 2024
September 27, 2024
November 1, 2024
***December 2, 2024

Meeting Dates:

January 22, 2024
February 26, 2024
March 25, 2024
April 22, 2024
**May 28, 2024
June 24, 2024
July 22, 2024
August 26, 2024
September 23, 2024
October 28, 2024
November 25, 2024
***December 16, 2024

Submittal Date Change:

*December 22, 2023 – Town Hall Closed for Holiday -New Date December 21st, 2023
(Thursday Before)

Meeting Date Change:

**May 27, 2024 – Town Hall Closed for Memorial Day -New Date May 28, 2024
(Tuesday after a Holiday)

***November 29, 2024 - Town Hall is closed for Thanksgiving Holiday -New Date
December 2, 2024 (Monday after a Holiday)

***Original meeting date December 23rd, due to Christmas Holiday, move to the 16h**

Approved at the ----- Meeting



**Town of Sullivan's Island
Tree Commission
Sign in Sheet
September 25, 2023**

Print Name

Address

Email

Michael Robinson

2602 Goldbug Ave

MRobinson@charlestonappraisal.com

Gerald Benoit

2602 Goldbug Ave

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