



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD - REGULAR MEETING

Operations Center - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville NC 28792
Tuesday, December 20, 2022 – 2:00 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 15, 2022 Tree Board Minutes

B. Budget Confirmation

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Relations Update – Mary Jo Padgett

B. Conditional Zoning Districts

C. 2023 Meeting Schedule

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Changes to City Ordinances/Zoning Concerning Trees – Glenn Lange

B. Tree Board Request to Council

C. 1. 9th Ave - Has been put off till Spring. 13 of these trees were used for Oklawaha Village

2. Druid Hills – Andy is waiting for HHS volunteers for planting. There were no volunteers from the Church. Possibly planting on Saturday. 36 trees, 4 trees are self-plants. Old canopy trees were removed.

D. Pollinator Bed Traffic Island Four Seasons Boulevard

E. Tree Board Vacancies

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Tree Board 2023 Budget

B. Utility Update

C. Invasive Species Control/Removal

D. Staff Comments

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Hendersonville is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and services for all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you need assistance or an accommodation for this meeting please contact the City Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at 697-3005.



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD - REGULAR MEETING

Operations Center - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville NC 28792
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT- MAC BRACKETT, AREAS CRAWFORD, MARY DAVIS, GLENN LANGE, PATRICIA CHRISTIE, MARK MADSEN

MEMBERS ABSENT – LONDON JUSTICE, DEBBIE ROUNDTREE

1. CALL TO ORDER

2:00 pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Glenn wants to discuss Townes @ Martha Cate.
Glenn made motion to approve.
Approved

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. September 20, 2022, Tree Board Minutes
- October 18, 2022, Tree Board Minutes

Glenn made a motion for the Chairman to take notes and give to Mark to help with the summary of the minutes.
Mary made a motion to accept
Approved

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Changes to City Ordinances/Zoning Concerning Trees – Glenn Lange

Glenn said that Debbie is trying to get ahold of Jerry Smith for a meeting. No date set yet for meeting.
Discuss High Priority Tree Canopy Survey. Asking Planning group to consider code changes.
Inspections needed on New Developments. Meet with Zoning, Council member soon.

- B. NeighborWoods

1. 9th Ave - Has been put off till Spring. 13 of these trees were used for Oklawaha Village
2. Wolfchase – Completed
3. Druid Hills – Andy is waiting for HHS volunteers for planting. There were no volunteers from the Church. Possibly planting on Saturday. 36 trees, 4 trees are self-plants. Old canopy trees were removed.
4. Blue Ridge Villas – Blue Ridge Villas planted the tree themselves. Project completed.

- C. Pollinator Bed Traffic Island Four Seasons Boulevard – Moving Forward RFP has posted.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Relations Update – Mary Jo Padgett

1. Mary Jo Padgett is researching two educational programs for 2023: a public field trip at Bent Creek Experimental Forest and a presentation by the NC Urban Forest Council.
2. She is meeting with the director of Hendersonville Bee City USA in December to coordinate activities between that organization and the Tree Board calendar in 2023.

B. Conditional Zoning Districts – None at this time

C. Discussion about making changes to Zoning Code to cover Tree Board and Oak Preserve Development (old oaks up for removal) and Half Moon Heights.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Tree Board 2023 Budget – Glenn proposed to add \$1000.00 to tree planting maintenance. \$5000.00 for trees. Mac made motion to approve.

B. Tree Board Vacancies – New City Clerk will get applications through the system. 2 new members. Appointed in December and start Term in January.

C. Invasive Species Control/Removal – Invasive Species Exchange

D. Utility Update – no update

E. Staff Comments – Community Foundation Grants. Glenn spoke about Greenworks. They have a tree adoption giveaway. They own their own nursery. They are concerned about the tree canopy, and they have given away 400 trees. Glenn made proposal for Greenworks to partnership with Tree Board to get trees for the Neighborwoods project. Their trees are 3 to 4 years old. Mark and Glen will go look at the trees. 50/50 grant for canopy survey. Apply by January. Glenn proposed recommendation that compensation for the oaks that are being taken out of Townes @ Martha Cate be put on the Agenda next month.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn - Mac Brackett

Meeting Adjourned at 3:39

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Adopted Tree Board Budget

10/15/2022

Budget for 2023/2024:

HWY 64 Maintenance - \$15,000

Tree Replacement & Supplies - \$1,500

Arborist Services - \$2,000

Publicity - \$3,000

Arbor Day - \$250

NeighborWoods - \$6,000

Maintenance of Pollinator Beds at Hands On Museum and Bearcat Loop - \$5,000

Tree Planting on Greenway - \$5,000, \$1000 maintenance

Planting of Pollinator Bed Behind Pump Station Four Seasons Boulevard - \$20,000

Maintenance of Pollinator Bed Behind Pump Station Four Seasons Boulevard - \$5,000

Maintenance of Pollinator Bed Four Seasons Boulevard (Triangle) - \$5,000

Invasives species chemicals \$2250.00

Total Request - \$71,000.00

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Maintenance of Pollinator Bed Four Seasons Boulevard (Triangle) - \$5,000

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Total Request - \$71,000.00

REPORT TO: Hendersonville Tree Board
 FROM: Mary Jo Padgett, PR Consultant
 RE: Publicity Report for December Board meeting
 DATE: December 20, 2022

Publicity/ events since last board meeting --

I participated in a planning meeting for Hendersonville's Bee City USA program in which a calendar of events for 2023 was drafted in coordination with the Tree Board's 2023 calendar. A news release was created and sent to media to announce Bee City's need for volunteers to help accomplish the events.

The Tree Board's "2022 annual report" will be published online soon. The report will be sent to City Council members early next year to inform them of the various and sundry projects that Tree Board and Bee City USA did over the year as they are planning the City's 2023 budget.

Mike Huffman has agreed to do a public presentation and walkabout on the Allen Branch project on Lakewood Rd. in February. The NC Urban Forest Council has agreed to do an educational program in March.

Upcoming Calendar --

HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD CALENDAR 2022

Winter 2022-23 -- Yarn-Bombing Project. During four winter months, 7 trees near the Historic Train Depot on Maple St. will be wrapped in decorative, colorful yarn by the STEAD organization. This art installation, approved by the Tree Board, has begun.

HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD CALENDAR 2023

February – Public Field Trip. Mike Huffman will do a presentation and walkabout on the Allen Branch project. Details TBA.

March – Educational program at Henderson County Public Library. The NC Urban Forest Council will discuss a tree-related topic of interest for the general public. Details TBA.

April 22 – Earth Day event on Main Street. Bee City USA will participate. Tree Board may want to as well.

Spring – NeighborWoods Tree Planting Projects

Early May – Arbor Day Celebration

May 27-28 – Garden Jubilee

June – Pollinator Month. Bee City will create a calendar of events for the month. June 3 will be the Maple Street Farmer's Market event.

August – Bee Bold Festival at Bold Rock Cidery, Mills River. Bee City USA will have a booth at this event.

Sept. 1-4 – NC Apple Festival

Oct. 7 – Farm-City Day, Jackson Park. Bee City USA will participate.

NOTICE

City of Hendersonville Tree Board

305 Williams St. Hendersonville, NC 28792

NOTICE OF TREE BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings of the City of Hendersonville Tree Board are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month beginning at **3:00 p.m.** in the Assembly Room of the Operation Center located at 305 Williams Street, Hendersonville NC. The following regular meetings have been scheduled for 2023:

January 17, 2023
February 21, 2023
March 21, 2023
April 18, 2023
May 16, 2023
June 20, 2023

July 18, 2023
August 15, 2023
September 19, 2023
October 17, 2023
November 21, 2023
December 19, 2023

Tom Wooten
Public Works Director

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Posted **01/2/2023**

<https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov>



Memorandum



**To: Mayor and City Council; City Planning Board;
City Planning Staff**
From: Hendersonville Tree Board
Date: December 20, 2022
Subject: Tree Canopy Loss

Our city landscape is changing. As in many parts of North Carolina, we are experiencing rapid population growth with increasing development pressures on our communities and their urban forests. This is especially true for Hendersonville. Developed landscapes, the roads, streets, houses, subdivisions, apartments, condos and commercial buildings, are rapidly becoming the face of our community. **Our tree centric community character is now disappearing rapidly.** The Tree Board believes we need to implement additional steps to properly manage our tree and natural resource integrated landscape. We request a meeting(s) be set up to discuss our tree management issues with council members, the planning board, and the planning staff.

The primary reason canopy tree loss is high and getting worse is the lack of tree preservation or planting standards in our zoning code. Only a few small zoning districts have any tree preservation or planting standards. The most glaring examples and the largest developments affecting the most trees are found in the PRD zoning districts, in open space requirements for many developments and in districts where subdivisions can be constructed, all without saving or planting a single tree.

The Tree Board is not opposed to needed development. But we are opposed to developers that do not integrate trees and other natural vegetation into the planning of the development, ignore the ecological need to protect and properly manage our natural environment, and help residents to keep our tree centric community character intact.

Back in 2009, thirteen years ago, the City of Hendersonville had a tree survey conducted to measure the percentage of canopy coverage in the city. Only 36.6 % of Hendersonville was covered by tree canopy. While probably considered adequate at the time, this tree canopy coverage was already smaller than almost every other city we could find in the state that have conducted surveys. Since then, the march of development continues to negatively affect the city's tree canopy. In the last decade, we have lost another 150 **acres** of trees (from city data) and that figure does not include a

number of large developments (9) that have been approved for forested areas and have not yet started construction. When completed, the Tree Board believes that we will approach losses of canopy trees of 225 acres or more. As it stands now, 2515 housing units are planned for construction in Hendersonville. And we have no doubt more developments are on the way. If constructed in the manner of recently approved developments, Henderson's tree canopy could easily shrink to below 30%.

We are not only losing significant tree canopy resources to development, particularly housing unit development, they are being completed with almost no regard for tree preservation or planting. Today's method of constructing commercial or housing developments is to mass grade the site and removing the majority of all trees, even in areas where there will not be buildings or streets constructed. It is not unusual that 80% of all trees on a site are eliminated. And then, if the developer wants to actually plant a few trees, he will install a few short-lived ornamental trees in an attempt to make the development look a little better. Large canopy trees are almost never planted.

Trees have long been a significant part of the character and landscape of Western North Carolina and Hendersonville is no exception. We know that abundant natural resources, trees and green spaces attract people, commerce and tourism. Canopy trees also provide a great number of quantifiable benefits as can be found in the City's Code of Ordinances and other city documents excerpted and attached to this memo..

With all of the benefits that trees provide, the Tree Board believes that a healthy urban forest is as crucial a component of life, health, and well-being in Hendersonville as any other part of our infrastructure, items that cost millions of dollars more. Conservation of our urban forest and green space is truly a low-cost multiple benefit community investment.

We certainly appreciate the support of the City Council for the Tree Board and its current activities. Those efforts have been successful in planting more than 500 trees through the NeighborWoods program and planting projects on our public properties over the last decade. But our joint efforts to conserve and renew our urban forest pales in the face of the loss of canopy trees to development.

Members of the City Council have recently proclaimed that the city will prioritize the protection of existing tree canopy and the development of greenspaces and parks. The Tree Board stands ready to help make that happen.

We await your response to our request and this issue. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

City Council Core Values and Beliefs

The City of Hendersonville believes environmental sustainability is critical to preserving the community for future generations

The City will prioritize the protection of existing tree canopy and the development of greenspaces and parks

City Code of Ordinances

Article IV - Trees and Shrubs - Division 1

Sec. 46-116 - Purpose of article

The purpose and intent of this article is to preserve and protect trees existing within the city and its extraterritorial jurisdiction by:

1. Saving trees from indiscriminate destruction or unnecessary removal;
2. Diversifying the tree species in the area;
3. Establishing standards limiting and regulating the removal of trees
4. Building an awareness of the need for and value of preserving trees;
5. Establishing an education program providing information and guidelines for tree preservation and maintenance;
6. Establishing standards for tree maintenance and protection;
7. Enhance, maintain and replenish trees in the Hendersonville area to improve the community's beauty and appearance.

Sec. 46-117 - Benefits of Trees

The city finds it important to amend this article to better preserve and protect trees since numerous benefits are derived from this practice, including the following:

1. Assists in the stabilization and fertilization of soil and in the prevention of soil erosion
2. Contributes to the process of groundwater recharge and storm water run off retardation and protecting against flood hazards and the risk of landslides;
3. Contribute to the process of air purification and oxygen some air pollutants;
4. Intercepts airborne particulate matter, and reduces some air pollutants;
5. Provides a haven for birds, reptiles and mammals which in turn help control the insect population;
6. Aids in glare, heat, noise abatement, along with maintaining the climate balance and decreasing wind velocity;
7. Provides nuts and fruits for wildlife;

8. Provides important psychological, sociological, and aesthetic counterpoints to the urban setting;
9. Provides aesthetic qualities which enhance livability;
10. Promotes energy conservation by maximizing the shading and cooling effects of trees;
11. Buffers uncomplimentary and often incompatible land uses by providing a transitional area.

Subdivision Ordinance

Section 1.04 Purpose and Intent - Goals and Objectives

H.) Protect open space, wildlife habitat, natural resources, cultural resources, and historic and rural character, where appropriate

Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 3 - Natural and Environmental Resources

Vision Statement - Hendersonville will be known for its success in protecting valuable open spaces and reducing its ecological footprint, maintaining the resources that first attracted residents to this community and supported its prosperity. Preservation of environmentally sensitive areas will protect citizens from natural hazards, improve water and habitat quality and contribute to an interconnected network of recreational open space.

Goal NR-1, Strategy NR-1.2: Protect Land Adjacent to Streams in order to protect water quality, reduce erosion, and protect wildlife habitat

Goal NR-2, Strategy NR-2.3: Promote Preservation of Woodlands. Mature trees and wooded areas are significant community-defining natural features and contribute to Hendersonville's identity