

## Town of Indian Trail



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### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

#### Tree Advisory Board

June 16, 2015

8:00 P.M.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Cathi Higgins.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The following members of the governing body were present:

Board Members: Cathi Higgins, Kelly D'Onofrio, Steve Long, Alan Rosenberg, Sidney Sandy, and Jorge Aponte.

Members Present but None.

not Voting:

Absent: Patricia Cowan, Larry Miller, Jan Brown, Dr Shamir Ally

Staff Members: Rox Burhans-Planning Director, Kevin Icard-Senior Planner, and Gretchen Coperine-Senior Planner, Donna Cook-Associate Planner, Lindze Small-Planner/GIS Technician, Pam Good- Board Secretary

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- May 19, 2015**

Member Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Sandy seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Currently Heritage Trees are considered trees with a diameter of 12-inches at 4.5-ft DBH (diameter breast height) are saved (all Trees Species/ no exceptions)

#### **Survey of local municipalities and national sources:**

- Most heritage tree standards are 12-24 inches/diameter
  - Some as little 4 inches required; some require 36"
  - Some make different criteria for species or wood type
  - Standards may vary between commercial & residential
  - More tree save 'credit' given for heritage trees
  - There are sometimes incentives for more tree save
- Many offer an alternative mitigation option
  - Fee in lieu /tree bank or fund
  - Offsite planting
  - Tree removal permit needed first .

Staff Small gave examples of various area municipalities' definitions of Heritage trees

Charlotte Waxhaw Matthews Huntersville

Alternative Tree Plans to date:

- Metrolina (2010): Plantings new ball fields; modified plan
- Fisher Textiles (2011): Create 1.35ac. protection area with smaller trees throughout site
- Legacy Landscaping (2013) off-site planting 6 trees
- Hanson Brick (2011): \$36,000 fee over 2 year period
- Ride Now Motors (2012): reduced buffer; on site plantings
- Crooked Creek Park (2013): reduced buffer; on site plantings
- Christian Brothers Automotive and Zaxby's (2014): \$2,500 donation to off-site planting
- Caliber Collision (2015): reduced buffer; more vegetation

Things to consider:

- What does the Tree Board think heritage trees are or should be?
- Should invasive or exotic species still be allowed for heritage trees?
- How (if at all) can the UDO be refined so less alternative plans are needed?

Questions from board:

Member Rosenberg mentioned that with Caliber Collision, he felt there was too much replanting required.

He also stated that he didn't think invasive species should be included in the Heritage Tree definition.

Member Higgins stated she feels she has to think about how far in the future; how big the trees will get and also how soon the screening will be effective with their growth.

Staff Burhans added that we will want to see effective screening in 2-3 years.

Member Rosenberg added that we have a lot of work to do to be realistic and not going over the top for expectations of replanting.

Staff Burhans asked the Tree Board's initial thoughts about what should be the size of Heritage Trees.

Member Rosenberg asked if it is realistic to have different categories. Discussion followed.

Staff Burhans ended the discussion with the possibility of Staff coming up with a recommendation to bring back to the board.

## ADJOURN

Member Long made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Member Rosenberg. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Chairman:

  
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Secretary:

  
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