



**Town of Indian Trail
Tree Advisory Committee
February 18, 2014**

Call to Order: Planning Board Chair Patricia Cowan called to order the first meeting of the committee.

Members in attendance: Patricia Cowan-Chair, Alan Rosenberg-Vice Chair, Robert Rollins, Cathi Higgins, Kelly D'Onofrio, Jan Brown, Cheryl Mimy and Sidney Sandy

Members absent: Larry Miller, Steve Long

Staff: Shelley DeHart, Rox Burhans and Helen Killough

Approval of Minutes: January 21, 2014-Approved

Discussion Items:

Ordinance Review -Chapter 830- Tree Preservation & Protection Ordinance.

Senior Planner Rox Burhans discussed Chapter 830 in regards to tree canopy and heritage tree protection. Mr. Burhans stated the intent of the ordinance is to minimize clearing but at the same time encourage quality development. He stated the UDO uses a sliding scale regarding percentage of canopy to be saved or planted based on the Zoning District.

The second part of the chapter addresses heritage trees. This will be the most common issue in hearing alternative landscape cases. Heritage trees are defined as trees with a diameter of 12-inches at 4.5 feet from the ground. Heritage trees can be any tree species. The removal of a heritage tree requires mitigation based on the size of the tree.

Member Mimy asked if there would be a way to encourage recycling of trees that have been removed. Mr. Burhans replied the tree can be sold as wood or mulched. Many heritage trees are so old they can be a hazard or diseased.

Chair Cowan asked how can the useable heritage trees be repurposed. Mr. Burhans suggested Jason Tryon, the Park director may have suggestions.

Chair Cowan commented about tree farms being used in the town.

Member Mimy asked what happens if the trees that are required to be planted die. Mr. Burhans replied there are maintenance requirements in the landscape ordinance.

Member Rollins asked if the ordinance is limited to commercial development. Mr. Burhans replied the tree preservation does not apply to a single residential parcel unless the parcel is part of a development that has a tree management policy.

Member Higgins asked if developments are required to have a certain number of trees at each home. Mr. Burhans replied not necessarily. There can be requirements to have trees planted in the easement area to develop a street canopy. Ms Higgins stated the Sheridan subdivision required tree planting on the parcel as part of their Special Use Permit in the CC&R's.

Adjournment

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_____ **Chair** _____ **Date**

_____ **Secretary**