



**Town of Indian Trail  
Tree Advisory Committee  
January 21, 2014**

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

**Members in attendance:** Patricia Cowan, Larry Miller, Robert Rollins, Cathi Higgins, Cheryl Mimy and Steve Long.

**Members absent:** Alan Rosenberg, Sidney Sandy, Jan Brown and Kelly D’Onofrio

**Staff:** Shelley DeHart, Rox Burhans and Helen Killough

Senior Planner Rox Burhans asked for modification to the agenda to first present for review and approve the Bylaws. It was motioned and approved.

Mr. Burhans stated the template for the Park Tree and Greenway Committee bylaws have been modified updated to fit for the Tree Board Committee. He stated duties of the members are to advise, deliberate and make recommendations to Town Council on Tree and Landscaping related matters, help in the development and implementation of new ordinance policy or plans, and review alternative tree protection plans. Members will also assist in public outreach education and community events. The structure of the Tree Board will be the same as the Planning Board.

Member Higgins motioned to approve the bylaws as presented.

Member Mimy seconded the motion.

All members voted in favor.

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Patricia Cowan was elected as Chair

Alan Rosenberg was elected as Vice Chair.

**Discussion items:**

Planning Director Shelley DeHart introduced Bill Smith, Union County Urban Forester. She stated Mr. Smith is contracted by the Town and plays a vital role in our program success.

Review of Tree City USA Program

Ms DeHart stated the program started in the early 2000’s; at that time there were no regulations on the book to help protect the trees during development. Clear cutting was the practice. There was a \$5,000 grant the Town applied for in 2006 in assist in the development of a Tree ordinance. The intent of this ordinance was not to prohibit development but to encourage sustainable urban forest practices through tree preservation, protection and planting or replacement. Besides protecting and planting trees the ordinance also provides information to developers and business owners on the right types of trees to plant. Ms DeHart stated to be a Tree City USA the Town must have an established Tree Board, a tree care ordinance (adopted in 2007), participate in a community forestry program with an annual budget of \$2.00 per capita, and have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Town has been a Tree City Usa community for over 6 years and the Town also gets Growth Awards, where amounts invested in the community grows every year.

Ms DeHart stated the Town does not have a line item for the Tree City expenses. Credit is received for all the maintenance and programs the Town does. She stated the biggest success has been the education component. The Mayor’s Tree initiative has been done two years in a row. It focuses on 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Indian Trail schools. In 2013 the Town was awarded the Most Outstanding Project in the State along with being a Tree City USA town. This is a tree education program for the children. They are sent home with a tree seedling. There is a tree education program at the library. There is an Earth Day/ Arbor Day celebration and a park cleanup every year. The upcoming events will be part of the duties of the Tree Advisory Committee. April 12<sup>th</sup> will be a park clean up. The Mayors Tree Initiative and a Tree Class at Union West Library have also been scheduled. The dates will be sent to the members.

Member Cowan asked how home school children are included. Ms DeHart replied the class at the library is advertized for all which could include home school children.

No further discussion.

**Adjourn**

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Tree Advisory Committee**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chair** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Secretary**