

Town of Indian Trail



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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Tree Advisory Board

July 21, 2015

06:30 P.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER Chair Cowan called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The following members of the governing body were present:

Board Members: Patricia Cowan, Jan Brown, Alan Rosenberg, Sidney Sandy, Jorge Aponte, and Dr Shamir Ally.

Members Present but None.

not Voting:

Absent: Larry Miller, Cathi Higgins, Kelly D'Onofrio, and Steve Long.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- June 16, 2015 Motion to approve by Member Rosenberg, seconded by Member Brown. Vote to approve was unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - Heritage Tree Discussion (continued)

Staff Lindze Small continued the heritage tree presentation and discussion from the last Tree Board meeting June 2015. Ms. Small proceeded to give an overview of what areas the board would be covering to proceed from the previous discussion. She presented proposed changes to the diameter requirements of Heritage Tree to the board. The present minimum diameter of a Heritage Tree in Indian Trail guidelines is 12 inches without any species allocation. Staff Small showed the board examples of 12 inch, 18 inch and 24 inch diameter and gave suggestions for potential revisions to heritage tree standards as:

- 18 inch minimum standard for deciduous trees
- 24 inch minimum standard for evergreen trees

Staff Small spoke of research of approximately 20 municipalities' standards of what each termed as a heritage tree. She presented possible species that might be excluded from the revised list of heritage trees.

Senior Planner Coperine continued the presentation with the statement that Staff would like to add language to the current standards for the areas listed below:

1. Diseased, dying or dead trees: allowing their removal with written permission
2. Emergency removal allowed: allowing removal of trees posing a public safety hazard without prior written permission, but with notice to Planning Department as soon as possible thereafter

3. Exemption for certain improvements: ROW dedication, sidewalk improvements, and other infrastructure improvements
4. Change tree replanting ratio: replace any heritage tree total calipers removed with 50% for residential and 25% for non-residential based on a cumulative caliper
5. Alternative Mitigation Section: various options presented including tree fund, off-site plantings, and alternative mitigation plans

Staff Coperine proceeded to detail each area for the board's consideration, noting that in #5 Staff recommends different standards of mitigating for residential and commercial development with a lower ratio for commercial development and stated that the recommendation was consistent with other area municipalities.

Items for discussion for the board were:

- What would the Town look like if we were to eliminate trees under 18" or 24" for certain species.
- Is that a direction we want
- Next steps

Member Rosenberg stated that he felt Staff was on the right track with the proposal, especially for the non-residential developments. He also stated he was unsure if 24 inches might be too large to be considered as the revised minimum standard for a heritage tree. Member Brown also stated that he felt 24 inches was too large as the revised heritage tree standard and would propose 18 inches as the new standard with the additional list of exceptions. Member Aponte agreed. Staff was directed to bring back categories of higher priority species that might have a different standard. Member Rosenberg asked for clarification if the revision would reduce the ability to create buffers. Staff Burhans replied that buffers have different standards than the tree protection ordinance. Member Rosenberg asked which category multi-family complexes fall into (residential or commercial) with regards to the tree ordinance. Staff Burhans replied that they would be considered residential for replanting rates. Member Ally asked about Magnolia Trees and whether they would be on the list of trees which are not considered heritage trees. Member Rosenberg stated they would not be considered heritage trees.

The board asked Staff to bring a recommendation to the next Planning Board regarding a revised standard for heritage trees changed to 18 inches with a list of species for a 12 inch minimum diameter as well as a list of some species that are inappropriate as heritage trees.

Also, discussion followed for exemptions for present older businesses that might need to remodel. Businesses that are remodeling must comply with the present ordinance. Businesses would have the option to apply for an exemption from the Tree Board.

ADJOURN Member Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Ally. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Chairman:

Secretary:
