

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**November 19, 2020, 3:00 PM**  
**Battery Park Covered Stage**

1. Attendees

Anita Grove, City Commissioner

Pam Richardson, Committee member and notetaker for this meeting

Bob Seaborn, Committee member

Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson

2. Draft Summary of Committee's October 20, 2020 meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer)

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the October 20, 2020 meeting.

3. Request for new Tree Committee members

The Committee, which is an advisory group with no set number of members, agreed that because we have only three members at this time that it would be helpful to add a couple more members. Mr. Winterringer will contact Ms. Guillotte and ask that a notice requesting applications for two more members be posted on the City's website. Mr. Winterringer also reminded the Committee that any applicant must be approved by the City Commission.

4. Tree permits issued by Code Enforcement Officer

Kevin Newell, the Code Enforcement Officer since October, did not attend this meeting therefore Mr. Winterringer was unable to ask him specific questions about the 19 tree permits Mr. Newell has issued since taking office. The Tree Committee would like to better understand what species and sizes of trees are being removed. Mr. Winterringer will contact Mr. Newell to try to get an answer to this question.

5. Municode

At the Committee's October 20 meeting, city manager Mr. Wade agreed to recontact Municode to get an idea of the frequency with which Municode updates the City's codes because we'd like to know when the Tree Ordinance requirements will be incorporated into Municode's online version of the City's codes. The Committee did not hear back from Mr. Wade. The updated Tree Ordinance is on the City's Building Department's webpage, so we agreed to let this question drop for the time being.

6. Tree City USA recertification application

Some time ago, Mr. Winterringer offered to prepare this year's recertification application. In order to do so, he requested some information regarding city expenditures on tree maintenance from Ms. Guillotte.

She did not answer his request. Ms. Grove is going to contact the city's financial officer, Leo Bibeau, to see if he can supply the necessary information.

#### 7. 2021 Arbor Day celebration

To continue as a Tree City, the Arbor Day Foundation requires a city to have an annual Arbor Day observance. In Florida, this celebration occurs on the third Friday in January. For 2021, the Committee agreed to cancel our normal celebration due to COVID-19 concerns and – instead – to plant a few trees on City property and to publicize this activity in the Apalachicola Times. It was decided to contact John Solomon, President of the Seafood Festival's Board of Directors, so that he can show us where exactly trees may be planted at Battery Park without interfering with underground lines and Seafood Festival arrangements. We will then give Mr. Solomon's recommendations to the anonymous donor who is hoping to be able to plant six Live Oaks in a row along the street.

#### 8. City Manager's proposed revisions to the Tree Ordinance

Mr. Winterringer drew up a chart showing Mr. Wade's proposed revisions to the current Tree Ordinance on one side and Mr. Winterringer's review of said revisions on the other side (see accompanying documents for this meeting). The Committee asked for the following stipulations:

1. the maximum penalty for cutting down a patriarch tree should be \$10,000
2. the penalty for a commercial tree or general contractor violating any provisions in the Ordinance should be loss of license upon the second violation
3. slash pine be erased from the protected trees list
4. the threshold for the diameters of protected trees be raised from 4 inches to 6 inches (not the 12 inches suggested by Mr. Wade)
5. permit applications for removal, relocation or substantial alteration of protected trees must be submitted to the Code Enforcement Officer only

#### 9. Other business

There was some discussion about planting a Christmas-type tree at Waterfront Park to replace the one that was cut down a few years ago. Many in town would like this while some would not. Some on the Committee are hesitant to jump into the controversy, others are in favor of proposing a suitable tree to the City Commission and letting them decide.