

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 21, 2017, 3:00 to 5 p.m.  
Margaret Key Library (Battery Park Community Center locked)**

1. Attendees.

Holly Brown, Committee member,  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner.  
Robert Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person and note taker for this meeting.

~~Wilbur Bellew, Code Enforcement Officer (unable to attend)~~  
~~Pam Richardson, Committee member (unable to attend)~~

2. Adoption of October 19, 2017, meeting summary as drafted.

3. Acknowledgement of the City Commission's appointment of Holly Brown and Pam Richardson to the Committee (November 7, 2017, Commission meeting).

4. Department of Transportation (DOT contractor Broadspectrum) October 17, 2017, trimming of patriarch live oak tree on U.S. Highway 98 (adjacent to 218 Avenue E, Rex Whiteman dentist office).

Broadspectrum gave Code Enforcement Officer Wilbur Bellew only 1 day notice prior to the trimming. Consider requiring that the DOT contractor give the Code Enforcement Officer at least 2 weeks advance notice so that the City could consult a tree arborist.

5. Review of 2011 tree protection ordinance and 2015 proposed revisions (never adopted) for the purpose of proposing revisions.

The Committee agreed on the following proposed revisions to the ordinance.

- In the definition of "protected trees," add water oak, pecan, sycamore, bald and pond cypress, red maple, longleaf pine, eastern and southern red cedars, sugarberry, and loblolly pine.
- Add scientific names (genus and species).
- Protect listed trees that have diameter greater than 4 inches (permit would not be required for removal of listed trees 4 inches or less).
- Revise Land Development Code to consistently indicate that diameter breast height (dbh) is 4 ½ feet, not 4 feet, above ground level (measure that Florida Forest Service uses).
- Leave patriarch trees as those listed species greater than 35 inches, dbh (had considered lesser diameter for magnolia, pines, and pecan).

- Add camphor to the list of invasive trees.
- Encourage, but do not require, the removal of invasive trees when a vacant lot is developed.
- Regarding fines for violating the tree protection ordinance,
  - Delete the ordinance's maximum \$5,000 per violation fine because it conflicts with maximum \$500 per day fine in existing Land Development Code section III.D.1 and
  - Retain the maximum \$25,000 fine for removing a patriarch tree.

The Committee began consideration of the following topics but needs to further discuss them.

- Mitigation or no mitigation for trees that are removed by permit (if mitigation is required, replacement and/or fee that is deposited in Special Beautification Fund).
- Removal of trees on City property (rights-of-way along streets adjacent to private property, City property including squares and parks).

6. Next meeting - January 18, 2018, 3 p.m.