

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
February 22, 2023, at 3 p.m.
Battery Park Community Center

1. Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser, Committee member,
Pam Richardson, Committee member,
Rebecca Stafford, Committee member,
Kenneth Turner, Code Enforcement Officer, and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Summary of Committee’s January 24, 2023, meeting (Winterringer).

The Committee approved the draft summary without revisions.

3. Discussion with new Code Enforcement Officer (all).

Tree Committee members met Mr. Turner, and all talked about his issuance of tree permits.

4. Landscaping plan for Lafayette Park.

a. Development of digital map showing park boundaries and existing walkways, gazebo, and trees (Winterringer).

Mr. Davis is working on the digital map.

b. Preparation of landscaping plan for new tree plantings and landscaping around gazebo and Avenue B entrance (Berkheiser, Stafford, and Davis).

After the map is prepared, the Committee will start discussions in advance of preparing a landscaping plan, including planting of trees.

5. City’s preparation of encroachment ordinance (Winterringer).

a. City Manager proposes that no trees be allowed to be planted in street and alley rights of way.

b. City Commission workshops.

(1) First workshop held January 9, 2023 – video available for viewing at [City Commission Workshop January 9, 2023 - Encroachments on Vimeo](#).

(2) Second workshop scheduled for March 6, 2023, at 5 p.m. in the Battery Park Community Center – Tree Committee members should attend and comment.

6. March 15, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Board of Adjustment (BOA) hearing on variance requested for new house at 10 6th Street (Winterringer, who is on BOA).

a. Application to move existing house to another location and build new house into front setback so as to not have to trim large limb on patriarch live oak in the alley (on city property). See application on city's website at <https://www.cityofapalachicola.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/BOA-3.15-Agenda-2-Variance.pdf>.

Bartlett Tree Experts December 8, 2022, letter stating that if the footprint of the proposed house is not allowed to be moved forward on the lot into the 15-foot front setback, the trimming of a 24-inch diameter large branch could kill the branch or in the worst case kill the entire tree.

b. Land Development Code section 105-26.

(1) Private property.

"When the [planning and zoning] board is the decision maker, approval or conditional approval to remove or substantially alter a patriarch tree on a privately-owned lot shall only be made when no principal structure could be legally built on the lot taking into consideration the location of the tree and such requirements as setbacks and minimum required size for single-family dwellings. Through the variance process the board of adjustment may consider reducing setbacks or minimum dwelling size if doing so would spare the tree."

7. Tree cutting at Chestnut Street Cemetery.

The Apalachicola Area Historical Society has not heard from the City Manager on its request for the city to hire a contractor to remove trees that are a danger to fall and hurt people or damage grave monuments, fences, and utilities.

8. Next meeting.

March 22, 2023, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.