

**City of Apalachicola, Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2018
Battery Park Community Center**

Attendees:

Holly Brown, Committee Member

Anita Grove, City Commissioner

Pam Richardson, Committee Member and note-taker for this meeting

Robert Seaborn, Committee Member

Dennis Winterringer, Committee Chairperson

(Absent: Wilbur Bellew, Code Enforcement Officer)

1. Adoption without revision of attached draft summary for the Committee's February 20, 2018 meeting.

2. Final planning for March 24, 2018 Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration at the Farmers Market. Coordinator Anita Grove said that all was set to go for the event to take place between 9 and 11AM; the ceremonial planting of a Live Oak would happen after the Mayor's speech, shovels would be provided; "Sam and Ed" would not be coming. Both Holly and Anita asked David Adlerstein at the Apalachicola Times to announce the event in the paper. Pam said that Karen Kessel of Bring Me A Book Franklin would have a booth to distribute books to children. Bob said he would make sure the map (pinpointing old trees in town) was there; someone will sit with the map and encourage people to add to it.

Anita explained that we were celebrating Arbor Day on this date in order to get ourselves back on schedule. We will have to figure out when we want to celebrate it in 2019 (somewhere between January and Earth Day in April).

Dennis shared an article about Wakulla's Arbor Day celebration: the Wakulla County Gardening Club partnered with the Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation which enabled them to give away 1,000 young, native trees. Also, the National Forest Service distributed 1,000 long-leaf pine seedlings and the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge passed out 375 milkweed plants. Dennis said he would email the article to all of us. Holly said she would look into the possibility of our doing something similar at our 2019 Arbor Day celebration.

3. Continued review of 2011 ordinance

(a) Dennis distributed copies of the 2011 tree protection ordinance showing revisions that were proposed by the Tree Committee in 2015.

(b) Regarding the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) management of trees in highway right of way, Dennis said that Augusta West did get back to him and she will look into the DOT's rules on this subject and inform Dennis of them.

(c) Regarding utility easement trimming (tree ordinance section VII), both Dennis and Anita said that Florida Statute section 163.3209 which concerns electric transmission and distribution line right-of-way maintenance is something we should probably incorporate into our proposed ordinance.

(d) Regarding the fines to be imposed for unapproved tree removal (Section VII of the ordinance), Brenda Ashe is concerned about imposing high costs on homeowners and Mitchell is not in favor of telling people what they can and can't do on their own properties. Dennis suggested a fine in the \$25-\$100 range; Anita suggests an amount that would increase with the number of trees removed (\$25 each for the first five trees, \$50 each for the next five, etc). Holly made the point that we need to get the threat of fines into the paperwork that is part of a building permit application. Committee members agreed, saying - however - that we have to wait until we actually propose the new ordinance.

4. Miscellaneous

- (a) Tallahassee is preparing a master plan for their tree canopy. This may be something we should consider for Apalachicola.
- (b) Anita will ask Cindy Clark if the P&Z currently requires people building a new home to submit a land contouring plan.

5. Next meeting

Scheduled for April 17, 2018 at 3PM

Agenda items – rewritten Tree Ordinance incorporating the changes that the Committee agreed upon at previous meetings (Dennis Winterringer).