

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
July 13, 2017
Battery Park Community Center

Present: Dennis Winterringer, Robert Seaborn, Anita Grove, Wilber Bellew, Lee Mathes

General discussion about the committee duties and guiding documents- Tree Ordinance, Tree City USA Standards, Tree Removal Permit

City ordinance adopted in 2011 and proposed revision in 2015 but never adopted. The city needs a committee to help city staff with ordinance revisions.

The purpose of the Tree Committee is to help set policy. Code Enforcement Officer Bellew and the city will deal with code enforcement and issues about individual trees.

-All agreed that the committee is a standing committee and we would meet monthly. The current date will be the third Thursday of the month at the Battery Park Community Center at 3:00 pm.

- The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. The meetings must be noticed.

-Lee will put a notice on the city's website.

-Anita agreed to chair the committee taking on the duties of calling the meetings, chair the meetings and drafting the agendas with help from the other committee members and Bellew.

-We also agreed to rotate taking notes.

Dennis asked Wilber to pull together synopsis of all the tree permits since 2011.

As a condition of the Tree City USA designation the city is supposed to hold an Arbor Day celebration within the calendar year. It was suggested that we partner with another ongoing group to do this. Anita will check with Holly Brown or Pam Richardson, organizers of the Farmer's Market at Mill Pond, about doing something in the fall at the farmer's market. Anita will check in to getting some trees and or native plant seeds to give out. Anita also has plenty of landscaping guides and brochures on native plants and pollinators.

The committee agreed that it and the city could play a lead role in education about the value/benefit of trees, types of trees that are good vs. invasive species.

Dennis asked if the Tree Committee could work with the city on the landscaping plan for the recently awarded \$200,000 FLDOT highway beautification grant. Cindy Summerhill is the city's grant administrator, and Jim Bachrach is the Main Street point of contact for the landscaping work. Lee said to contact them but she did not see a problem.