

TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND TREE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, January 28, 2019

A regular meeting of the Town of Sullivan's Island Tree Commission Meeting was held on the above date at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2056 Middle Street. All requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Commissioners members Mary English, Milton Langley, Thresa Luke, Nat Robb, Ken Spicer, and Adele Tobin.

Members of the public present: Rita Langley (Town Council member), Rachel Burton, Derrick Wade.

Staff members present: Joe Henderson, Director of Planning/Zoning Administrator and Jessica Gress, License and Permit Technician.

Media present: No members of the media were present at this meeting.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ken Spicer called the meeting to order and stated that the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law and a quorum of Board Members were present. There were no known members of media present.

- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Tobin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 27, 2018. Mr. Langley seconded this motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. **APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:**

Mr. Spicer informed the Commission members that he would be retiring from the Tree Commission. Mr. Henderson stated that the Commission members must vote to select a new chair and a vice-chair. Mr. Spicer stated that he would recommend Mr. Robb as chair and Ms. Tobin recommended Mr. Langley as vice-chair.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to select Nat Robb as the chair and Milton Langley as the vice-chair for the Town of Sullivan's Island Tree Commission. Ms. English seconded this motion. All were in favor Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Robb presented a plaque to Mr. Spicer, thanking him for nearly twenty years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Town of Sullivan's Island. Through Mr. Spicer's guidance and leadership, the Town's Tree Preservation Ordinance was created which led to the inception of the Tree Commission. All members thanked Mr. Spicer for his service.

IV. TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS:

1405 Middle Street: Rachel Burton, applicant, requests approval to remove one Category 1 live oak at 16" dbh (diameter at breast height). The request was made in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 21-162. B. (Application for relocation, or removal and replacement) (TMS# 523-07-00-118)

Mr. Henderson stated that the applicants requested to remove a 16" DBH live oak located in the center of the property. The tree is in healthy condition as evaluated by Town Staff and no hazard assessment has been submitted. The owners are in the process of presenting a new home construction to the Design Review Board, which is scheduled following the Tree Commission review. Due to the narrow width of the lot, there is minimal area for the applicants to construct the home and meet the required setbacks. The applicant requested to remove the tree with the option of paying to the tree fund instead of replanting.

Ms. Tobin believes that live oaks are very important to this island and help with drainage. She believes that it is important to leave the tree and recommended work around it. She recommended working around the tree. Ms. Burton explained the design and positioning of the home was due to the narrow width of the lot. The existing 16" live oak in the center of the property posed a problem for constructing a new home on the property and that the owners would be willing to mitigate its removal. Ms. Luke asked what the Town of Sullivan's Island is asking to be submitted to ensure the drainage is accounted for. Mr. Henderson stated that the Town now requires a civil engineer or a landscape architect to submit a stormwater plan before the building permit can be issued. This secures that the drainage plan will be required as part of the Building Permit for construction. Ms. English stated that her concern would be that there will not be any replanting and a canopy to be added to this property once this tree is removed. Mr. Robb agreed with Ms. English and stated that he would be more comfortable approving this design if the homeowner would be willing to replant instead of just paying to the tree fund. The Board had a discussion regarding the pruning of the two live oak trees along the western property line and were concerned if this work would constitute a removal of the trees because of the severe lean toward the center of the property. They asked staff to hire a third-party Certified Arborist to ensure this pruning work could be achieved without damaging the two trees. Henderson agreed that this could be done through the Tree Fund.

Mr. Robb made a motion to approve the removal of the Category 1 Live Oak with the condition of a full replacement of mitigation on the property. This motion failed. Ms. English made a motion to continue this application pending documentation that states that the two live oak trees along the property line could be pruned in accordance with industry standards and that Mr. Henderson ensures this work can be done via a third-party arborist. Mr. Langley seconded the amended motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2602 Atlantic Avenue: Derrick Wade, applicant, requests approval to remove one Category 1 pecan tree in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 21-162. B. (Application for relocation, or removal and replacement). (TMS# 529-10-00-033)

Mr. Henderson stated that the applicants requested to remove a 16" DBH pecan tree located along the western side of the property. The tree is in healthy condition and no hazard assessment has been submitted by a certified arborist. The home is listed as historic, and the owners presented a renovation plan to the Design Review Board on January 16, 2019, which was deferred with the intent of resubmittal per the Design Review Boards recommendations. Additions were proposed for the northern side of the property.

Ms. English made a motion to approve the removal of the Category 1 pecan tree as presented. Ms. Luke seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

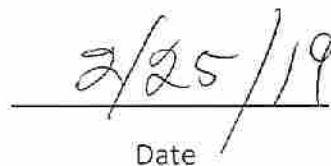
Ms. English reiterated the need to hire a certified arborist to provide a recommendation of certain cases when Town Staff should not get involved. Mr. Henderson stated that the Tree Commission has the authority to make a motion to approve the hiring of a certified arborist on a case by case basis with the funds from the tree fund.

Ms. English made a motion to approve hiring a Certified Arborist to provide a tree pruning recommendation for 1405 Middle Street when the application is represented to the Tree Commission. The approval of the Certified Arborist is to be paid for with the funds from the tree fund account. Mr. Langley seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

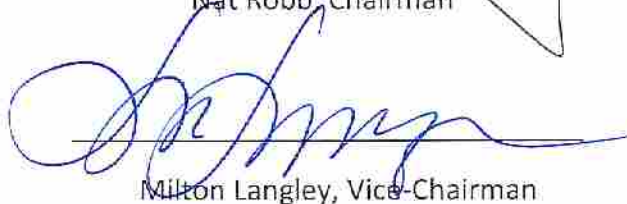
- V. **ADJOURN:** Mr. Robb made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 5:58 p.m. Ms. English seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.



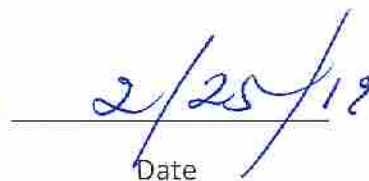
Nat Robb, Chairman



Date



Milton Langley, Vice-Chairman



Date