

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
TREE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Town of Sullivan's Island Tree Commission was held on at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. All requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Commission members Milton Langley, Mark Miller, Derek Wade, and Nathaniel H. Robb Jr.

Members of the public present: Madison Rice, Landscape Architect of Wertimer and Cline.

Staff members present: Joe Henderson, Deputy Administrator, Charles Drayton, Director of Planning and Zoning, and Jessica Gress, Licensing and Permit Technician.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Robb called the meeting to order and stated that the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law and a quorum of Commission Members were present. There were no known members of media present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Robb made a motion to approve the June 27, 2022 Tree Commission Meeting Minutes. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **BORAD DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CHAIR AND VICECHAIR:** Mr. Robb made a motion to maintain the positions of Chair to be Mr. Robb and vicechair to be Mr. Langley. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2023:** Mr. Wade made a motion to approve the 2023 Tree Commission Meeting dates. Mr. Langley seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

1813 Middle Street: Todd Nedorostek, applicant, requested removal of two Category 1 hackberry trees of 54" (codominant) and 18" in diameter at breast height (DBH). Request is being made in accordance with Zoning Ordinance, Section 21-162 B (Application for tree relocation, or removal and replacement). (PIN #529-09-00-003)

Mr. Drayton stated that the applicant requested removal of two hackberry trees. One is 54" in diameter and the other is 18" in diameter. Mr. Drayton stated that staff recommended the removal of the trees due to their proximity to the driveway, Middle Street, age and structure problems. Mr. Drayton stated that the 54" hackberry codominant tree is at the end of its lifecycle. Mr. Drayton stated that the applicant provided an arborist letter which indicates possible failure however the tree canopy appears to be healthy. The applicant proposed full

mitigation in the amount of 72 inches and replacement with a sable palmetto, red cedar, live oak and a Japanese maple.

Mr. Langley asked if a disease was present in the 54" Hackberry. Mr. Nedorostek responded by stating at the time the tree assessment was completed the crown was thinning and yellowing disease pathogen on one side which is described in the assessment. There also there are four other trees surrounding that are starting to show decline.

Mr. Wade stated that the hackberry looks very healthy for its age and is curious if the removal isn't just for convenience to install a driveway. This tree is being abused by construction and not being protected. Mr. Wade requested more evidence as to why this tree needs to be removed.

Mr. Nedorostek responded by stating that when a tree has a disease it takes some time for the pathogen to show, and he believed that that is the case in this scenario. Believe that leaving this tree will spread to other trees and cause them to die as well.

Mr. Miller asked if the codominant could be a risk for falling. Mr. Nedorostek responded by stating yes, it is a potential risk for falling.

Mr. Wade asked the reasoning for the request of the removal of the 18" hackberry. Mr. Oroscek responded by stating this tree shows more symptoms of the yellowing disease and basil decay.

Mr. Robb asked for an explanation of the mitigation plan.

Mr. Madison Rice, Landscape Architect of Wertimer and Cline, stated that the mitigation includes the following:

- 3" total Seiryu Maple
- 45" total brodie red cedars
- 6" total live oak
- 24" Palmetto

Mr. Wade made a motion to suggest that the 18" hackberry be removed and the 54" hackberry to remain. No second was made. Motion dead.

Mr. Miller asked how old the 54" tree. Mr. Nedorostek couldn't give a specific age but would guess 50-60 years of age.

Mr. Langley asked if there was any way to prune the tree to avoid removing of the tree. Mr. Nedorostek stated that pruning is not going to help control the pathogen, but a cable is keeping the tree together. Without the cable the tree would split.

Mr. Robb suggested the removal of both trees due to the amount of mitigation being proposed.

Mr. Robb made a motion to approve the removal as requested provided full mitigation is completed. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. Motion passed 3 to 1. Mr. Wade opposed.

2802 Brooks Street: Jason Fowler requested removal of twenty-two (22) trees: 9" oak, 10" oak, (3) 11" oaks, (3) 12" oaks, 13" oak, 8/14" oak, 16" oak, 12/17" oak, 19" oak, 21" oak, 24" oak, (5) sabal palmettos, 6" pear, and a 6" cedar. Request is being made in accordance with Zoning Ordinance, Section 21-162 B (Application for tree relocation, or removal and replacement). (PIN #529-07-00-048)

Mr. Drayton stated that the applicant requested the removal of 22 trees in order to construct a new single-family home. Mr. Drayton stated this property has a historic cottage located on the Books Street side and the area proposed for new construction is heavily wooded. The applicant submitted a proposed new construction to the Design Review Board and received final approval. Mr. Drayton stated staff recommended that the Commission members consider the tree removal tenets regarding size, location, and canopy density when considering their decision.

Mr. Sam Fowler, the applicant's associate and father presented his application to the Commission.

No public comment was made.

The Commission members agreed that they were not in favor of the removal of so many trees on this property.

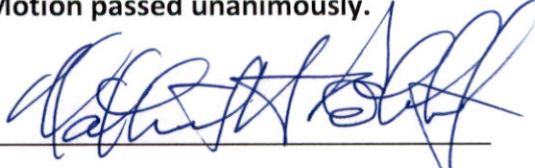
Mr. Drayton informed the Commission that they are reviewing the removal of the Category 1 trees only on this property.

Mr. Robb suggested looking into shifting the proposed home to accommodate for the removal for some of the trees.

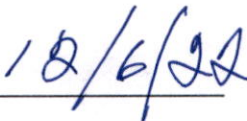
Mr. Wade proposed the relocation of the driveway to avoid the removal of the cluster of trees on the right side of the property.

Mr. Robb suggested that the application be deferred, and the property owner properly mark all the category 1 trees on site and give the Commission members consent to walk through the property for a better perspective as to what is requested for removal and attempt to move the proposed construction to eliminate the removal of as many trees as possible. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURN: Mr. Robb made a motion to adjourn at 6:06 p.m. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.



Nathaniel H. Robb Jr., Chairman



Date

**2023 TREE COMMISSION MEETINGS
TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND**

All meeting held in Council Chambers
Town Hall, 2056 Middle Street

Tree Commission Submittal dates:

*December 28, 2022
January 27, 2023
March 3, 2023
March 31, 2023
April 28, 2023
May 26, 2023
June 30, 2023
July 28, 2023
September 1, 2023
September 29, 2023
October 27, 2023
December 1, 2023

4th Monday of every Month

5:00 p.m. Tree Commission Meetings:

January 23, 2023
February 27, 2023
March 27, 2023
April 24, 2023
May 22, 2023
June 26, 2023
July 24, 2023
August 28, 2023
September 25, 2023
October 23, 2023
November 27, 2023
*December 18, 2023

Submittal date changes:

*December 23rd, 2022, Town Hall is closed: Submittal date changed to December 28, 2022

Meeting date changes:

Town Hall closed December 23-27th for Christmas Holiday. Meeting date changed to December 18, 2023