

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND  
TREE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 24, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Town of Sullivan's Island Tree Commission was held at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. All requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Commission members Donovan Glassburn, Mark Miller and Milton Langley.

Members of the public present:

Members of Council: No members of Council were present.

Staff members present: Charles Drayton, Director of Planning and Zoning, Jessi Gress, Licensing and Permit Technician, and Rebecca Fanning, Director of Resilience & Natural Resource Management.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Miller 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 was present. There were no known members of the media present.
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM August 26, 2024:** Mr. Langley made a motion to grant approval of the August 26, 2024, Tree Commission Meeting Minutes. Mr. Glassburn seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM November 28, 2024:** Mr. Langley made a motion to approve the November 28, 2024, Tree Commission Meeting Minutes. Mr. Glassburn seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS:**

The applicant for the tree removal at 956-A Middle Street was not present at the time the meeting was called to order, and staff requested that the Board consider the 2<sup>nd</sup> tree removal request on the agenda first, to allow time for the applicant for 956-A Middle Street to arrive. The Board was in favor of granting this courtesy and the agenda was shuffled to allow the applicant for 2918 Middle Street to go ahead of the 956-A Middle Street agenda item.

**2918 MIDDLE STREET:** Noelle Marchese, homeowner, requested to remove a Category 1, pine tree (30" DBH). The request is being made in accordance with Zoning Ordinance, Section 21-162 B (Application for tree relocation, or removal and replacement). (PIN# 529-07-00-079).

Mr. Drayton stated that this is a healthy pine tree and poses no hazards or threats requiring its removal. The tree is, however, located well within the buildable area of the lot and is centrally located in the backyard of the property. The approved plans will place a pool and deck under the tree's canopy, and the stairs from the house into the backyard will land with the tree just 5.5 ft directly in front of the bottom step. For these reasons staff recommends approval of the tree's removal with full fees and mitigation, and staff does not recommend allowing the proposed crepe myrtles to satisfy any of the mitigation requirements, as the crepe myrtle is no longer considered an appropriate replacement species.

**No public comment was made.**

The Commission members were in favor of the application presented.

**Mr. Glassburn made a motion to grant approval of the tree removal provided that the applicant submits full mitigation payment to the town and schedules a final inspection at the end of the project for potential reimbursement. Mr. Langley seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**

**956-A MIDDLE STREET:** Charles M. Bullwinkel, homeowner, requested to remove a multi-stemmed, Category 1, 11"/18" hackberry tree. The request is being made in accordance with Zoning Ordinance, Section 21-162 B (Application for tree relocation, or removal and replacement). (PIN# 523-06-00-010) (Supporting documentation).

Mr. Drayton stated that this is a declining hackberry tree with potential targets within its fall zone. The applicant is expressing the desire to remove the tree as a hazard, and staff concurs with the assessment from the applicant's arborist. The loss of canopy cover on the property will be minimal, though most of the canopy hangs over the public right of way. With the tree in clear decline, the canopy cover will only continue to diminish over time if the tree is not removed. Thus, staff recommends that the tree be removed from the property with a hazard tree removal permit which requires no permit fees or mitigation.

**No public comment was made.**

The Commission members was in favor of the application presented.

**Mr. Langley made a motion to grant approval for the application presented. Mr. Glassburn seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**

**V. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 2025:** National Arbor Day is on April 25, 2025; the Town has traditionally gathered to celebrate the day. Staff requests review and approval for the planned Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 25, 2025, from 9:00am – 4:00pm; the event is scheduled to be held in Stith Park (an alternate location may be implemented if Stith Park renovations are underway).

Mr. Drayton proposed the following for the 2025 Arbor Day Celebration:

- Schedule for April 25, 2025 – National Arbor Day
- This year we are strengthening our partnership with SIES – providing a curriculum day for their 4th Grade students
- Celebration from 9am – 4pm,
  - students 4 30-minute stations starting at 9am
  - all 4th grade students for Arborist Talk at 11am
- Booths and tree giveaways are set up during curriculum time
- Arbor Day celebration with information booths and tree giveaways until 4pm
- Band to play ~2-4pm
- Tree planting showcase

Mr. Drayton presented the following information for the proposed Arbor Day budget:

- 100 T-shirts
- 95 larger trees
- 100 smaller trees
- Trees, plants and planting materials for
- showcase planting site
- Band
- Snacks

The Commission members were in favor of the presentation plan Town staff created for the Arbor Day Celebration on April 25, 2025.

**Mr. Glassburn made a motion to grant approval to allow a \$5,000.00 budget from the tree fund account to be used for Arbor Day supplies and activities. Mr. Langley seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VI. UPDATES FROM TOWN STAFF:**

### **1. TREE CANOPY ANALYSIS PROJECT.**

Mr. Drayton provided the Commission members with an update on the Tree Canopy Analysis project.

### **2. WINTER RC TRIMMING**

Ms. Fanning presented a pie chart table showing the current RC Trimming projects completed on the island showing which properties completed the wax myrtle removals, popcorn removals, and both wax myrtle and popcorn removals.

### **3. 1743 ATLANTIC AVENUE OAK TREE**

Mr. Drayton informed the Commission members that on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the oak tree that is currently on 1743 Atlantic Avenue will be relocated to the neighboring property and will notify the Commission members of the time the relocation process will begin.

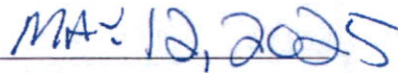
#### **4. RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

Mr. Drayton informed the Commission members that a large red cedar tree was removed without a permit at 2063 Middle Street after receiving rejection for the request from town staff. Because they removed the tree without proper approval, a citation in the amount of \$1,040.00 dollars was issued and will be on the Town's court docket in March.

**VII. ADJOURN: Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m. Mr. Glassburn seconded this motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**



Mark Miller, Chairman



Date