

THOMASTON TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2023

Attending: Jane Burdette Cathy Ashberry
Luke Haney Susan Formby
Absent: Levi Long Kyle McGee
Lisa Salter

1. Meeting called to order at 10:58 a.m. by Chair Jane Burdette
2. Minutes of the September 28, 2022, and the October 26, 2022, meetings were approved.
Motion: Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Susan Formby. Approved
3. Adopt Agenda - Motion Luke Haney. 2nd Susan Formby. Approved
4. Welcome to new member Luke Haney to Thomaston Tree Board. We are delighted that Luke has joined us and we look forward to his input.
5. Public Works Director Report – Kyle McGee was not able to attend the meeting due to a work conflict, however, in a conversation with Chair, Jane Burdette, he wished to convey the following:
 - It is time for budget allocation. Does Tree Board have any request for specific trees? He is in the process of ordering 25 trees as either new or replacement trees to include some Dogwoods, Eastern Redbud, and River Birch to name a few. **Board recommendation:** 1) no increase in Crape Myrtle plantings at this time but only to replace Crape Myrtles with Crape Myrtles as necessary, 2) increase the use of Dogwoods – particularly Pink Dogwoods – as Street trees once the disease problem is identified, 3) plant

large, overstory trees such as Sugar Maple and Sycamore at Lakeside Park and other open places to provide shade and habitat.

- DOT cut down several Crape Myrtles on County Road behind McDonalds. That will not happen again. Kyle is looking for a new contractor and Pruning will be taken out of the specifications.
 - Crape Myrtle pruning is continuing on the downtown square and John is doing a great job.
 - A Magnolia blight is feared in addition to whatever is killing the Dogwoods around town. Kyle will consult with a specialist to determine what can be done about this.
 - The memorial at GGMP is coming along and he has obtained bids to be presented to City Council for approval.
 - Jane Burdette mentioned the Magnolia tree debris on the sidewalk on 3rd Ave and will provide the address. The tree is dropping debris which interferes with the ambulance gurney when the disabled resident must be attended to, which is frequent.
6. Our social media FB page designed by Levi Long started off good, but we need to provide more articles for posting. Susan Formby will ask Oasis Nichols if our page can be linked and shared via the City website to reach more citizens.
7. State Arbor Day activities suggestions include a peanut butter/pinecone/birdfeeder project with the pre-k children. Cathy Ashberry will provide the materials for that. We would also plant a tree to grow with them. Luke suggested that we plant a tree at the high school to recognize opening of their Agricultural Learning Center. The Garden

Clubs may participate with us and Luke Haney will contact the schools. Kathy may be able to obtain the trees from Home Depot.

8. State Arbor Day is April 28. Tree Board will participate in the Art & Soul festival at GGMP which is the week prior. Cathy will be the liaison between Home Depot (to obtain 2 trees) and the Forestry Commission. Cathy will ask FC to bring Smokey Bear and seedlings again this year.

On National Arbor Day, TB will plant a tree at the Thomaston-Upson Archives in honor of Mr. Britty Dickens was a WWII Veteran, tireless volunteer and wrote volumes on WWII veterans from Thomaston and Upson County. We believe this will be a fitting honor for him and will tie in with the Archives exhibit of WWII on the Homefront Exhibit. The Historical Society would like to place a bench on the Archives ground in his honor if it is approved by the City and County.

Motion Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Susan Formby. Approved

9. The Board discussed Tree City Growth Award activities. We will decide which categories we qualify for and turn that information over to Oasis Nichols, City Clerk.

Other Business – Elections were held and Jane Burdette was asked to continue as Chair.

Motion Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Susan Formby. Approved.

Susan Formby was elected as Vice-Chair. Motion Luke Haney. 2nd Cathy Ashberry.

Approved. Cathy and Jane will continue to be co-Secretaries.

Motion to adjourn made by Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Luke Haney. Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jane S. Burdette, Chair

