

THOMASTON TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Attending:	Jane Burdette	Cathy Ashberry
	Luke Haney – Absent	Susan Formby
Absent:	Levi Long	Kyle McGee – Public Works Director
	Lisa Salter	Oasis Nichols – City Clerk

1. Meeting called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Chair Jane Burdette
2. Minutes of the January 25, 2023, meeting was approved. Motion: Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Susan Formby. Approved
3. Adopt Agenda - Motion Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Lisa Salter. Approved
4. Public Works Director Report – Kyle McGee reported that 25 trees were planted. He also reported that the Memorial Tree and Bench Program had been presented to City Council and adopted at the February meeting. Bike Racks and Swings were added as options; however, no acceptable swing has been located yet. A brochure and application will be posted on the City webpage. No memorial plaques will be placed on a tree but it's location and purpose will be recorded.
5. Growth Award - Oasis Nichols explained the process of applying for the Tree City USA Growth Award. She asked that Tree Board keep her updated with pictures of our activities to apply toward the award. Tree Board voted to continue to monitor our progress toward the award and provide Oasis with the documentation needed. Motion; Susan Formby 2nd Lisa Salter

6. Social Media - Our social media FB page designed by Levi Long has been linked to the City website. We will send more articles for posting. Susan Formby has become our “unofficial” article Guru – thank you, Susan!
7. State Arbor Day Week was Feb 13-18. Board members Cathy Ashberry and Jane Burdette met with and provided the children at the UL Pre-K with materials to make pine cone bird feeders. Thank you, Cathy, for bringing the supplies. We talked to the children about the importance of trees, forest fire safety and the animals that make trees their homes. It was a delightful visit.
8. State Arbor Day was Feb 28. A presentation and gift of two trees was made to the Alternative School. Tree Board and the garden clubs - Thomaston Garden Club, Spade & Trowel, and Green Thumb - held a joint tree planting and beautification event at the Alternative School. Thomaston Garden Club donated \$100 to Tree Board. Thank you, Thomaston Garden Club. Cathy Ashberry obtained two Autumn Blaze Maples from or friends at Home Depot. Both trees were planted in the front courtyard of the school and the garden clubs provided and planted a nice arrangement around the school sign. It looks beautiful.
9. Other Business - Tree Board will participate in the Art & Soul festival at GGMP on Saturday, April 22. Cathy will be our liaison with the Forestry Commission. She will ask them to bring Smokey Bear and seedlings again this year.

Tree Board had discussed planting a tree at the Thomaston-Upson Archives in honor of Mr. Britty Dickens who was a WWII Veteran, tireless volunteer and wrote volumes on WWII veterans from Thomaston and Upson County. However, that decision was conditioned on whether a memorial bench would be approved by City Council and the

Archives Board. The bench was approved so we will plan a presentation later to dedicate the bench and include our garden club friends. We believe this will be a fitting honor for him and will tie in with the Archives exhibit of WWII on the Homefront Exhibit.

For National Arbor Day, April 28, a River Birch (instead of Pistashe) will be presented to the Dog Park to recognize our animal rescue volunteers and to shine a light on Thomaston's commitment to Spay/Neuter. The state dog of Georgia is the adoptable dog. We will ask the Mayor for a Proclamation. We will invite the Humane Society volunteers and shelter workers. We may ask them to bring a few adoptable animals to the presentation. We will discuss further at our April meeting. Motion Cathy Ashberry.

2nd Susan Formby. Approved

Motion to adjourn made by Levi Long. 2nd Susan Formby. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jane S. Burdette, Chair

