

THOMASTON TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 26, 2023

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

1. Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Jane Burdette
2. Roll Call – Levi Long w absent due to work issues.
3. Adopt Agenda – Chair, Jane Burdette, requested to delete item 7 as it was duplicated from last month and to reverse items 3 and 4. Motion Cathy Ashberry. 2nd Lisa Salter.
Approved
4. Minutes of the March 29, 2023 meeting approved. Motion: Luke Haney. 2nd Cathy Ashberry. Approved
5. Public Works Director Report – Kyle McGee reported that since planting 34 trees, nothing new to report at this time. He advised that the memorial bench had been delivered and placed on the Archives grounds. The Archives Board did not want the concrete base.
6. Social Media – Susan Formby has found some great educational articles and sent to be posted. Oasis reported that our facebook page was being seen and shared all over the country. Luke advised that many garden clubs groups were sharing it. Kyle McGee will add a link to our facebook page on the Parks & Rec webpage. Susan Formby also sent a

post on the American Chestnut and efforts to bring them back. This was in response to our meeting with Councilman Greathouse. Susan would like to put a group pictures of Tree Board members on our facebook page. Oasis reminded us to follow up if a post doesn't show up within a week of request. If you are not comfortable making a post, send it to Susan and she will do it for you. Thank you, Susan.

7. Agenda was finalized for National Arbor Day on April 28. Tree Board will dedicate a River Birch to our local Humane Society and Shelter workers. Cathy Ashberry will give a speech. The Mayor will issue a Proclamation. This will take place at the Dog Park at 1:00 p.m. Luke advised that the dedication will be covered by the Upson Beacon.
8. Other Business – Lisa brought our attention to the Century plant that is getting ready to bloom over by the Senior Center. Luke mentioned that another one was located near the EMC. Lisa will take a picture for us.

Cathy mentioned that Hal Massey, a well known Arborist, may know where some American Chestnut trees are located and perhaps he would come to a meeting to educate us. Efforts to hybridize and bring back the American Chestnut may be something Tree Board would like to explore further as part of our Growth Award project. Jane feels strongly that Thomaston needs a tree ordinance that would require a permit to cut down a “legacy tree” over a certain circumference. Other cities have this and we have lost too many legacy trees in the city of Thomaston.

Tree Board wants to leave a lasting legacy to the City by working to restore our canopy cover where it has been lost. Kyle mentioned recent aerial photos of Slvertown that shows a good canopy cover. He also wondered how we quantify our efforts to be used toward our Growth Award.

Jane Burdette met with the Archives Board to discuss a possible dedication of the memorial bench. Although not a Tree Board event, it would be nice to beautify the area. Lisa told us that a honeysuckle is already planted there and is beautiful when it blooms. This would be a good opportunity to work with our garden club friends. Jane will keep the Tree Board up to date on that effort. Susan met the new Paresident of Spade & Trowel and she was very interested in working with us on future projects.

Some ideas were discussed regarding recognition of individual homeowners for good Tree stewardship (Kyle). Perhaps put a sign in their yard to call attention to a great tree. We agreed to take some pictures and ask the homeowner if we can post their tree on facebook. Sort of like Tree of the Month. A motioin was made to adopt this project and we will discuss further. A fun idea! Motion Luke Haney, 2nd Lisa Salter Approved.

We requested a Thomaston Tree Board banner to use at functions. Oasis will look into.

Motion to adjourn made by Cathy Ashberry. . 2nd Luke Haney. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jane S. Burdette, Chair