

City of Newnan Tree Commission Minutes
February 13, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order by Matt Bryan, Vice-Chair.
2. Attendance was taken. Present were: Matt Bryan, Laurie Pope, J.R. Roberts, Ellen Wood and Mike Furbush, City Liaison. Absent was: Richard Prange. Mike introduced our newest member, J.R. Roberts, who was appointed by Mayor Brady. He shared some information about himself and was welcomed to the group. We still have two vacancies on the board.
3. The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

4 . Old Business

a. Update on the Tree City USA Re- Certification (30th year) Mike shared that the application has been submitted and approved.

b. Update on Ideas for Tree City USA (30th year) Mike has purchased tattoos, stickers and buttons to be distributed to kindergarten students and teachers at each tree planting ceremony in March.

c. Update on Landscape Ordinance Revisions- Mike and others met with Ed Macy, a top guy in the Southeast, to go over the ordinance and receive some guidance. While he does not have time to rewrite the ordinance, he did give them some suggestions. There is another person that may be hired to help with the rewrite. One suggestion was having an appeals process, so Mike and others are looking to add that. An appeal may go to the zoning board or another board but could possibly be something the tree commission would be minimally involved with.

5. New Business

a. Election of 2020 Officers- Laurie made a motion to elect Matt Bryan as Chair which was seconded by Ellen. A vote was taken with all present voting in favor. Laurie made a motion to elect J.R. Roberts Vice- Chair and all voted in favor. Ellen agreed to continue as Secretary with all voting in favor.

b. Tree Commission Vacancies and New Member- Mike reported that Joel Cheek chose not to be reappointed so we still have two vacancies. Mike had already introduced our new member, J.R. Roberts.

c. Tree Commission Items to Move Forward With- Laurie handed out a copy of the approved Newnan Heritage Tree Program. He has contacted Michael Terrell and Scott Berta to see if one of their Eagle Scouts would be interested in taking on this project. He is waiting to hear back. The Eagle Scouts would set the framework for the program under our guidance which would include a tree inventory. Laurie stated that Georgia has several huge oaks throughout the state and used a tree in Thomasville, GA as an example. He would like to get to get an acorn from that tree and plant it somewhere in the city. It was suggested that it could possibly be planted somewhere along the LINC. He would also like to see a link added to our website that could identify Heritage trees with a map provided. it could include such things as; biggest pine, biggest maple, biggest ginkgo etc. He will provide more information at our next meeting.

d. Dates for 2020 Kindergarten Tree Planting Program- Mike gave a sheet with the dates for the Tree planting at each of the six city schools. Mike encouraged each member to attend as many tree plantings as their schedule allows. The Arbor Day proclamation will be read by Mayor Brady and Tree City USA Award will be presented by Ranger Terry Quigley, Thursday, March 26 after the 9:00 am planting at Newnan Crossing. This event will take place on the LINC across the street from Newnan Crossing Elementary School. Mike suggested parking in the lot left of the school.

e. Tree of the Month (Amelanchier canadensis- Shadblow Serviceberry)

6. Next Tree Commission Agenda Items. Update on Heritage Tree program

7. Next and Upcoming Tree Commission Meeting(s). . . .

Thursday, 03/26/2020 @ 9:00, 10:30, and 1:00 2 Elementary Schools

Friday, 03/27/2020 @ 9:00, 10:30, and 1:00 @ Elementary Schools

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wood, Secretary