

# **MINUTES - Approved**

## **Windermere Tree Board** **February 18, 2021**

*Mission Statement: Augment community awareness of our Urban Forest, provide education regarding the benefits of trees and a commitment to protect, preserve and proliferate our community's Urban Forest. Beautify our Windermere Parks and Recreation Areas.*

Tree Board Members: Susan Carter (Chairman), Frank Krens (Recording Sec.), Jacqueline Rapport, Leslie Brabec.  
Town Liaison: Liz Andert

1. **Call To Order** - Chairman Susan Carter called the regular meeting of the WTB, as an in-person meeting, with a quorum present at 10:04 am on the Town Hall back porch on February 18, 2021.

Tree Board Members present were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, and Frank Krens. Town Council Liaison, Liz Andert, and Public Works representative, Travis Mathias, Interim Public Works Director, were present.

2. **Public Comment** - None
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Susan Carter made a motion to approve the January 2021 Minutes as written, Jackie Rapport seconded and they were approved 4/0.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. **Updates** -
    - (1) **Central Park Landscaping Plan** – Susan Carter stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee approved the Central Park Landscaping plan and that Vicki Hearst of the Garden Club was preparing an overall cost estimate. (The tree selection and planting locations were previously coordinated among the Tree Board, Garden Club, and Parks and Recreation and reviewed during the January 27 combined workshop at Central Park.) Susan also noted that the two diseased laurel oaks had been removed and the stumps ground. Leslie Brabec noted that a hickory tree planned to shade part of the walk could create a nuisance from falling nuts as well as potential hazard to walkers. Susan said she would recommend planting an oak rather than a hickory.

Potential cost, available budget, and irrigation alternatives were discussed. Travis Mathias stated that some manual watering or the new trees could be done using a hose by the water fountain. He said that installation of in-ground irrigation might cost \$2000 to \$3000. TreeDiaper© is a likely lower-cost and more flexible alternative, and will be considered. Susan Carter stated that the Tree Board budget stands at \$9158, plus a contingency reserve of \$10,250. Project costs borne by the Tree Board for the project will include purchase of trees, mulch, soil amendment, and TreeDiapers©. Susan will get pricing on the trees and other items.

**(2) Crepe Myrtles for front of Town Hall** – Town Council liaison, Liz Andert, suggested the Tree Board ask the Windermere Wine & Dine representative whether they would consider paying for the Crepe Myrtles.

**5. New Business**

- a. Old Railroad Right of Way Land Swap** – Susan Carter stated that there is one diseased oak near the Ward property that need to be removed, that there are numerous small nagy trees there that are worth saving, for potential planting in the parks.
- b. Tree City USA Ideas** – Susan Carter said she is attending the February 10, 17, 24, 2021 virtual Tree City Conference, during which the value of having a 10-year structural pruning plan was stressed. Susan sees a walk by a certified arborist to make a general health and hazard assessment and to set priorities for further action as a first step to a plan. Frank Krens recalled that the 2006 Windermere Urban Forest Management Plan included useful information on tree maintenance and offered to email a copy to Tree Board members.
- c. Crepe Myrtles in Beds in Front of Town Hall** – Susan Carter said that Town Manager Robert Smith agreed for WTB to plant two Crepe Myrtle trees in front of Town Hall. Jackie Rapport made a motion to proceed pending availability of funding. Frank Krens agreed and the motion passed 4/0.

**6. Adjourn** – Frank Krens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leslie Brabec seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:01am.