

# **MINUTES**

## **Windermere Tree Board** **May 19, 2022**

**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, Pamela Schrimsher  
**Town Liaison:** Bill Martini

1. **Call To Order** - Chairman Susan Carter called the regular meeting of the WTB, as an in-person meeting, with a quorum present at: 10:06 A.M.

Tree Board Members present were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, and Pamela Schrimsher. Frank Kerns was not able to attend. Leslie Brabec took the minutes. Town Council liaison Bill Martini, Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, and Public Works Foreman Travis Mathias were present. Brett Dargis, of V3 Capital Group, LLC was present, representing the land owners. Marcus I. Geiger, P.E. of Kimley Horn was present. Eric H. Hoyer of Legacy Forestry Services was present representing the developers. Brad Cornelius, AICP of Wade Trim Inc., works with the Town of Windermere.

2. **Public Comment** – The public was involved in the presentation and discussed the topics as they came up.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. April 21, 2022 Windermere Tree Board Meeting Minutes- These minutes need to be corrected to read “WTB members will walk the site individually prior to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.” Jackie Rapport made the motion, Pam Schrimsher seconded and it was approved.
  - b. May 2, 2022 Windermere Tree Board Special Meeting Minutes- No corrections were noted. Pam Schrimsher made the motion, Jackie Rapport seconded and it was approved.
4. **New Business**
  - a. Tree Recommendations for 500 Block Developer. Brad Cornelius did a presentation regarding the development of the 500 block and the Town of Windermere's involvement. He noted that the Town had designated this site as a site for re-development several years ago. There are many issues that the Town mandates such as the maximum amount of square footage, and other site requirements. The plans must go through a multi-step process that involves not only the Town

committees and government but public notifications as well. This includes recommendations from the Tree Board, the Development Review Committee but also workshops and then the Town Council as well. The plans must also go through PUD. Part of these requirements is the buffer between the commercial and residential areas. There has to be a 6-foot wall and 20-foot buffer but there is flexibility about the design if the Town wishes. The Town has already provided a waiver for parking to decrease parking spaces to protect the tree canopy. There is a pathway for a fee to be paid if parking is needed. Water retention and a septic system are required and there is no set number of trees to be saved in the ordinances, but there is still a Town Tree Mitigation Ordinance. The developer has an arborist and the Town also can have their own arborist to work with them. They are using permeable pavement to help protect the trees as much as possible. Susan presented our process for walking the site and designating the trees that the Tree Board highlighted as important and ranked them in a priority system. Brett Dargis then spoke about the importance of the trees. Of the 31 trees that were on the list, 27 trees are being kept. The list of the ones being removed is: # 65, because it is on the foundation line of the building. The building must be up to the sidewalk per Town requirements. No. 53 cannot be saved because it sits in the middle of the septic drainage field. It is a laurel oak and while a pretty tree its roots would eventually get into that drainage system. The septic drainage field is set to provide for the heritage trees on the corner of Oakdale St. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. No. 57 is a palm tree and an invasive tree. No. 61 is being saved and they are shifting their loading dock to save it. No. 281 will have to be removed as it is in the middle of the drain field. The rest of our list is being saved. No. 4 is an invasive Golden Rain Tree that provides some canopy to Main Street, it is up to the Tree Board as to whether they wish to save it or not. The wall will undulate around the trees. It must fit with the ordinance and must be brick, stone or stucco and go with the character of the building. The Town is considering lowering the height to 3 feet along Sixth Ave. The plan is to have more of a post and beam construction so the columns would break up the monotony of a solid wall. The buildings will mimic the style of the Town offices. When the roundabout is enlarged it will be shifted to the west onto land the Town owns. The additional new trees will be as big as can be safely transplanted. The new trees being brought in will be native species as much as possible, 15 trees out of the approximately 20 trees. Eric Hoyer discussed trees as well. There are 88 trees on the survey. So, of the 88 trees, 27 will be retained (he will send the list to the Tree Board). The process for the wall will involve a complete final drawing that will then go through the Tree Board, the Development Review Board and Town Council plus workshops. All this will be open to input from the public and they will have elevations and colored renderings. The tree mitigation fees were discussed and the possibility of the Town re-examining their fees. The Town Council can adopt a new schedule of fees. If a tree is removed without permission the fee is doubled. The drainage and septic fields are maxed out for the square footage. The next workshop will possibly be in June. There are thoughts on adjusting the fence on the pocket park. The public was involved in all the above discussion and asked questions during these presentations.

5. **Next meeting** - is to be determined
6. **Adjourn** – Jackie Rapport made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pam Schrimsher seconded, and all voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at: 12:01 PM.

