

MINUTES - Approved

Windermere Tree Board

July 7, 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 a regular meeting of the WTB, as an in-person meeting, with a quorum present at 1:01 pm on July 7, 2022 in the Community Conference Room/PD Training Room. Tree Board Members present were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, Pam Schrimsher, and Frank Krens. Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore and Public Works Foreman Travis Mathias were present. Town Council liaison Bill Martini participated via Zoom.

2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT – None

3. MINUTES

Pam Schrimsher moved to approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting, Leslie Brabec seconded. After discussion, the Minutes were approved 4/0 contingent on verification by Brad Cornelieus of the following statement included in the minutes: "The Town has already provided a waiver for parking to decrease parking spaces to protect the tree canopy."

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Amendments to FS 163.045** - Chairman Susan Carter provided copies of the revised Florida Statute which addresses tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property. Susan noted that the revised statute, effective July 1, 2022, is stricter than the previous version. It requires that a standard tree risk assessment process, identifying the level of risk, be used to support removal.

There was discussion on who in the community needs to understand the new requirements and how to get the word out. Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moored stated that:

- builders and developers will be informed during the project approval process,
- many tree trimmer/removal companies are unlikely to comply on their own,
- it is residents who need to know the requirements and who are responsible for compliance and who are most at risk for non-compliance from careless or disreputable tree trimmer/removal companies.

Susan Carter agreed to draft a letter to the Realtor Association informing them of the statute change. It was also recommended that information on the change be posted on the Town website and published in the Windermere Gazette and the Observer.

b. **Trees FL Recap** - Susan Carter gave a recap of the event and stated that one of her contacts from there is a PHD grad student with recommendations on how to diversify the canopy for the multi-modal path.

5. Adjourn – With no further business Leslie Brabec moved to adjourn, Frank Krens seconded and by a vote of 4/0, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm.