



City of Cookeville Tree Board Minutes

October 6, 2021 12:00pm

In attendance: Greg Brown, Ken Young, Jaime Nunan, Douglas Airhart, Guy Zimmerman, Delayne Miller, Jeff Littrell, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Jeff Thompson.

Guest: Bill Bullington

I. Approval of Minutes

Jeff Littrell made a motion, seconded by Douglas Airhart to approve the August minutes as submitted.

II. School Tree Planting Program

Jaime Nunan had spoken with teachers who were previously interested in applying for trees, however due to covid schools are restricting visitor access. The board agreed to reevaluate the possibility next school year.

III. Heritage Trees – Douglas

Douglas Airhart previously mentioned the lack of recognition for heritage trees in Cookeville by the board. Board members discussed what this program would entail and came to agreement that a heritage tree program would be strictly for recognition, not enforcement. This allows the board to include trees located on private property. Douglas is going to work on program guidelines to present at the next meeting.

IV. Vacant Positions – TDF and appointed members

The board still has one vacant position, all recommendations should be sent to Guy Zimmerman. Jeff Thomson was introduced as our new Area Forester and will be filling the TDF position on the board.

V. Partners in Community Forestry Conference

Jaime Nunan will be attending the Partners in Community Forestry Conference hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation in Louisville, Kentucky November 17-18. Jaime

also informed the board that the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council will be hosting a virtual conference this year at no cost to attendees. The TUFC will have the City of Knoxville as the keynote speaker on their urban forestry program, all board members were encouraged to attend virtually.

VI. Arbor Day/Tree Give Away

Board members discussed multiple ideas to celebrate Arbor Day in April of 2022. The board is planning to continue the awards of excellence recognition in April as well as a tree planting or give away. Board members agreed on focusing the tree planting or give away on the deforested tornado area again this year.

VII. Additional Business

Bill Bullington, owner of Mid-Tenn Nursery attended the board meeting and requested funds and/or volunteer labor for a project he is working on in the tornado area. Board members discussed the limitations we face due to the location being on private property and outside of city limits. A possible partnership with TDF or Tn Tech was discussed with no set plan on assisting with this specific project being made.

Jaime Nunan is going to contact the Arbor Day Foundation about funding availability for another Community Tree Recovery Give away in the Spring.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:56pm