

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA

Minutes of Meeting

April 8, 2014

Council Room, Oxford City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ready at 5:00P.M.

Attendance

Present: Board Members Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Anderson Wright, Hulon Clemons;

City Staff: Manager Bob Schwartz, City Supervisor Jody Reid;

Guests: City Council Member Sarah Davis, Oxford Citizen Gwen Green, Forester Beryl Budd,
Athens-Clarke County Foresters Andrew Saunders and Billy Paugh.

Absent: Arborist Connie Head (e-mailed her report), Board Member Simon Perryman.

Approval of Minutes for February 14, 2014 meeting

Motion to approve made by Anderson Wright. Motion seconded by Hulon Clemons. Vote: 4, yes; 0, no. Motion carried.

Emory Street Revitalization Project

1. At the suggestion of Arborist Connie Head and invitation of Chairman Ready, Forester Andrew Saunders (and his colleague Billy Paugh) presented the Athens-Clarke County history of municipal corridor plantings of trees. Attendees received copies of their 12-page presentation (file copy attached to official minutes). The Board gave serious attention to the 5 options for revitalizing Milledge Avenue and other areas of Athens, Georgia.
2. Forester Beryl Budd used power point photos to illustrate the re-treeing of Newborn and Mansfield after the tornado of 2011. See at the end of these minutes the 2-page scan of "The Newborn Heritage Tree Fund" brochure.
3. The contract for Oxford's waterline project includes replanting of trees according to Arborist Head's specifications. City Manager Schwartz reported that GDOT has not yet given approval for replacement trees. Replanting will occur once the project is complete and the season is appropriate. The City reports waterline progress to the citizens involved.

Reports

A. *Arbor Day*: Chairman Ready announced that the 2015 theme will be history of trees in Oxford. Ideas from Board Members and others are requested. Secretary Oliver reported receiving a note of appreciation from The Covington Service Guild for their being honored as the first of "Friends of Oxford Trees."

B. *Tree planting progress and Premier LS*: Supervisor Reid reported that 19 of the 21 newly purchased trees have been installed on Mitchell and Green Streets. The other two will be added to George Street Park. Premier Landscaping work is expected to continue.

C. *Whatcoat Street right-of-way*: Thanks to volunteer work of Board Members Ready and Oliver, Mike Ready, and Councilman Jim Windham, all trees in the area have been pruned significantly and the rink has been scraped of mud and overgrown grass. Pressure washing of concrete tables, rink, and patio are needed; City has water truck and washer required for the job. City Crew directed initial clearing of clogged drainage. Further engineering is required. Premier Landscaping will maintain mowing throughout and edging of concrete rink and brick patio.

D. *Mitchell Street Park*: Board Member Wright reported that cleaning up of fallen branches and a small amount of grading are planned at this time to continue the park's "facelift."

Future Ideas for TPR Board

1. Little Libraries: The only opinion expressed was that at this time the idea has little relevance to the mission of the TPR Board.
2. Playgrounds: Gwen Green offered pictures that encourage consideration of colorful playground equipment in a centrally located area of Oxford, an area that the City could possibly purchase.

Concerns and announcements

1. City website states in the header of its home page that we are “a city of history, community, education, and trees.” There is no mention anywhere on the site that we are a “Tree City USA.” TPR is not included among the site’s icons at bottom of home page.

Next Meeting – June 10, 2014.

Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn made by Anderson Wright, seconded by Hulon Clemons.

Vote: 4, yes; 0, no. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary

The Commemorative Tree

In Europe hundreds of years ago, trees were planted to commemorate important births, marriages, ascensions to the throne, military victories, and deaths. An extensive forest was planted in 1811 in the Jura Mountains to commemorate the birth of the King of Rome, and near the town of Songieu in France, one can still visit a huge linden tree planted in 1601 to commemorate a battle won by King Henry IV in Val-Romey. Today, commemorative trees are often planted to acknowledge the birth of a child, graduation from school, marriage, a special anniversary, or a birthday. They are also planted as living memorials to those close to us who have died.

From "Sacred Trees" by Nathaniel Altman, 1994

The Newborn Tree Inventory

The Newborn tree inventory conducted by a professional arborist in the summer of 2000 provided information on nearly 400 public trees. While many of these trees are healthy and well established, the majority of these trees are mature or are declining. Very few young or newly planted trees were found growing along the street rights-of-way. More than 250 vacant planting sites were identified.

The most common trees in Newborn:

Oak, Water	70	17.7%
Crape myrtle, Common	57	14.4%
Oak, Willow	40	10.1%
Dogwood, Flowering	39	10.1%
Elm, Winged	37	9.8%
Pecan	36	9.3%

For more information on the

Newborn Heritage Tree Fund
or the Town's tree planting program,
contact:

The Town of Newborn
P.O. Box 247
Newborn, Georgia 30056
(770)787-1660 voice
(770)787-1604 fax



Contributions are
Tax Deductible

The Heritage Tree Program was developed as part of an Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Project with funds for brochure development provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission and the USDA Forest

The Newborn Heritage Tree Fund
Planting Tomorrow's Trees Today

*A Program to Celebrate
Newborn's Citizens through
Public Tree Planting*

*Administered by the
Newborn Tree Board and the*

Newborn's Community Forest

Newborn has many magnificent, old trees—and many trees that citizens recognize and relate to certain people or events in their lives.

While we have many old trees today, the Town recognizes the need to plant more trees for the future. In fact, during the tree inventory conducted recently throughout Newborn, more than 250 vacant tree planting sites were identified along the public street rights-of-way! The Town needs your help in replanting our community forest for future generations.

The Newborn

Heritage Tree Fund

has been established as a way for citizens to help in the tree planting effort while at the same time honoring their loved ones. Donations to the Fund can be made to celebrate, honor, or recognize the following:

- ♥ birth of a child
- ♥ special birthday
- ♥ graduation from school or college
- ♥ marriage
- ♥ wedding anniversary
- ♥ good deeds of a special individual
- ♥ the life of a loved one
- ♥ other special person or event

Giving Categories (Tax Deductible)

Donations made in the following categories will be used to purchase one tree. *Tree species selection will be made by the Newborn Tree Board.*

\$75 Small flowering tree such as a cherry, redbud, or crapemyrtle.

\$100 Medium-sized shade tree, such as a red maple, Southern sugar maple, or Chinese elm.

\$150 Large-sized shade tree, such as a willow oak, southern red oak, or sugar maple.

For each donation of \$75 or more, a leaf-shaped wooden plaque will be placed on the wall at the Newborn Town Hall. On each leaf an engraved label will identify the donor and/or the person being honored. In addition, a Heritage Tree Certificate will be mailed to each donor or the person being honored. A list of the Heritage Tree donors, persons of events being recognized, types of trees planted, and locations of trees will be maintained at Town Hall.

Donations can also be made in smaller amounts. These will be applied to the Town's general tree planting fund, and a certificate will be sent to the donor. Donations made by August 1 of each year will be used for the following tree planting season:
December through February

Donation Form

Please fill out the form below and make your check payable to the "Newborn Heritage Tree Fund." Send the form and your check to:

The Newborn Heritage Tree Fund
The Town of Newborn
P.O. Box 247
Newborn, Georgia 30056

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your Phone Number _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____

Name of Person Being Recognized _____

Description of Event Being Recognized _____

If a certificate is to be sent to the person being recognized, please include the address below:

