

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF BEAUFORT TREE BOARD**  
December 2, 2013 1:00 pm  
**Planning Conference Room, City Hall – 1911 Boundary Street**  
Beaufort, South Carolina

In accordance with South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, Section 30-480(d), as amended, local media were duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

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**Members present**

Barb Farior, Chairman  
Derrick Wells, Vice-Chairman  
Jim Arnett  
Michael Brock  
William Waskiewicz

**Staff present**

Eliza Hill, Planning Department

Chairman Farior called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

**SPANISH MOSS TRAIL PLANTING AND CIVIC ADOPTION OF PORTIONS/INTERSECTIONS**

The Board discussed the Spanish Moss Trail Planting and Civic Adoption of portions and intersections.

**ARBOR DAY PLANNING**

The Board discussed events for Arbor Day 2013.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY HAZARD TREES (STATUS)**

The Board discussed the status of the private property hazard trees.

**WATERFRONT PARK TREES (STATUS)**

Discussed the status of the Waterfront park trees.

**TERMS OF OFFICE (Status)**

The board members discussed term limits and response to council's comments regarding their request to eliminate term limits as members of the tree board are advisory. Board member, Jim Arnett, suggested council review members every 3 years but the term of office would not be limited to a 3 year term. The Tree Board currently is composed of 5 members; board recommends increasing number; current board members working arborists; need more members who have more spare time/retired; recommendations of possible members included Jean Woods, Rob Rhodin, Dr. Gray, Terry Murray and the Husseys. Staff will forward formal

request to City Manager regarding recommendations of revisions to term limits and board member increase.

### **TREE FUND (STATUS)**

Forestry budget discussion: Vice-Chairman stated \$15K budgeted this year was not enough for both Waterfront Park and city urban forest for tree care. The Waterfront Park is our “signature park” and a major tourist attraction. Millions to develop, but no funds for tree care. At least \$10K to \$25K would be needed for trees in Waterfront Park alone. \$20K is needed now for pruning and root invigoration. The decline in oaks in the park is evident. If a full \$20K is not available, then triage is needed to remove liabilities to the public. The inventory and assessment of tree health of all trees in Waterfront Park should be the primary focus.

Also recommends monies budgeted for removal of hazard trees to be increased. Staff reports that \$15K was budgeted for FY 2013/2014.

Council liaison to the Tree Board has not attended any meetings in the last several years; we have no representation. The Board requests the Council liaison attend a minimum of 3 meetings per year. It was also recommended that the revised ordinance description include this language.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Farris adjourned at 2:30 pm.**