

MINUTES
CITY OF BEAUFORT
TREE BOARD
February 23, 2012, 3:00 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.

Members present

Barb Farrior, Chairman
Derrick Wells, Vice-Chairman
Jim Arnett
William Waskiewicz

Staff present

Eliza Hill, Planning Department

Chairman Farrior called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

TREE REMOVAL APPEALS: 1602 Battery Creek Rd. – Bell Residence

Mr. Bell said he had applied for tree removal and had been denied on some of the trees, so he is appealing the decision to the Tree Board. He said his interest in tree removal pertained to insurance and particularly his deductible if there is damage to his home from falling trees or limbs. When he had a new roof put on, he wanted to remove all the trees. He described the trees that Ms. Hill had said he could remove. He wants to remove them all.

Ms. Hill stated application submitted by Padgett Tree was for the removal of four trees. Site inspection revealed all trees on site flagged for removal. Total was 11. Ms. Hill approved removal of all but four. She suggested retention of 3 laurel oaks and one hackberry. None displayed disease, decay, etc. Mr. Bell stated he had tagged all remaining trees following the original tagging by Padgett.

Chairman Farrior explained that of the four trees behind the shed, he could cut down two. Chairman Farrior asked Mr. Arnett his opinion. Mr. Arnett said the leaning laurel oak is healthy. He agreed that the other two at the shed should be taken out. The hackberry, he said, has the fence growing through it, and that eventually will be a problem. He would take it out, he said, and agreed with Ms. Hill on the reasoning on the other hackberry. He suggested keeping the laurel oak trimmed to keep it from going over the house because then it would spread out and grow and not be a danger to the house.

Mr. Waskiewicz said the leaning of the laurel oaks behind the shed could continue to get worse. The other laurel oak has a limb that's broken off, and there may be some decay, but the extent

of it is not clear. If there's no decay in the main stem, he has no problem with keeping that laurel oak. He said he is fine with the removal of the leaning laurel oak over the shed. On the side of the house, Mr. Waskiewicz said most of the fence line trees except the laurel oak and one hackberry had issues that would lead him to suggest removal.

Chairman Farris said she recommended leaving the hackberry and leaving the laurel oak. Mr. Wells said he hadn't seen the trees, but based on pictures, he would tend to recommend cutting the leaning laurel oak because of possible future trouble. On the left side property, he would cut the hackberry that's growing into the fence because it will fail, ultimately. Mr. Waskiewicz said the leaning laurel oak could not be reduced without a severe loss of form.

Chairman Farris recapped that Mr. Bell could take out the two right trees in the back. The two laurel oaks are under discussion, and on the left of the property, the hackberry and laurel oak are still under discussion. Chairman Farris said the Tree Board's consensus is to remove the hackberry on the road and keep the laurel oak at the property line.

Ms. Hill said she could come back out and mark the trees that could be removed. Chairman Farris said the Tree Board agrees that they could take out the laurel oak leaning over the shed. Ms. Hill said when the leaning laurel oak is being taken down, Clyde Padgett could look at the other one that may have decay and let Ms. Hill know if the decay had spread.

REVIEW MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2012

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Waskiewicz, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

TREE REMOVAL APPEALS: 2201 Mossy Oaks Rd.– Bay South Apartments

Ms. Hill said most of the original requests for tree removal on site were approved except for 4 pines behind building B and one by the pool.

Pool pine: Application stated removal requested due to termites in base. Upon inspection by both Ms. Hill and Mr. Wells, no termites were found. Pine is in excellent health, well anchored with a beautiful crown. Both Mr. Wells and Ms. Hill recommended deadwood and reduction pruning and retention of tree, but would support removal with mitigation. Owner requests removal due to excessive maintenance and shade on pool area.

Ms. Hill described the remediation standards. She did not recommend additional over-story trees due to quantity of existing live oaks. She described recommendations for remediation.

Mr. Arnett said he agrees with the idea of removing the pool pine and remediating. Chairman Farris polled the Tree Board members, and they agreed the pool pine could be taken down with remediation at Ms. Hill's discretion.

Four pines behind Building B: Retention and root pruning was originally recommended for all four pines by Ms. Hill. Mr. Wells stated two of the four displayed canker and recommended removal of these two, but retention of two remaining healthy pines. Mr. Waskiewicz agreed

that canker would worsen but that the other two pines should be retained and root pruned as per Ms. Hills original written recommendation.

The board voted and agreed to require retention of the two pines behind Building B.

SCEG TRANSMISSION LINE TRIMMING – SPRING 2012

Ms. Hill said she had given a map to the Tree Board members of the transmission line trimming plans. She said before June-July, the Tree Board should photograph and scout to decide what they would like to see SCE&G do, and what they would like to see retained by SCE&G if possible. **Paul Michau** said last year's pruning was a major five-year pruning and wondered what they could expect. Ms. Hill explained that these were the transmission lines and said she and the mayor thought that there would be no more trimming once the 80' transmission poles were put in. She doesn't know what form the trimming will take.

Ms. Hill said she doesn't know that there will be a radical difference, unlike the lower lines on major streets. Ms. Hill said when she asked the utility, they said they still need pole access in the event of an emergency. Mr. Wells said they had pole access when they erected them last year, so that should still be available. Mr. Wells recommended calling **Will Saleeby** in advance of their scouting.

UTILITY CONVERSION GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Chairman Farris said this was discussed at the last meeting; Mr. Arnett had contacted **Melissa Berry**, and the grant can be applied for after June 1. Ms. Hill said it's part of a pre-disaster mitigation program. She pointed out the allocations for FY 2010 of \$100 million. Ms. Hill thinks they have a good chance of getting money for undergrounding. There's a 25% local match. Ms. Hill said Ms. Berry had said she thinks it stands a good chance.

Chairman Farris said this is only one of many possibilities for funding, and she recommended that interested parties also look for funding sources online. Ms. Hill said she will start doing some more research, too. Mr. Michau asked about looking up grants. Mr. Arnett said he put in "grants for undergrounding" in a search engine, and the FEMA grant came up the most. **Terry Hussey** asked how Mt. Pleasant had done it, because they had received money for undergrounding utilities.

DATA REVISIONS RE: UNDERGROUNDING FROM SCE&G

Ms. Hill said SCE&G's engineering studies are done, and the numbers are "complete and true." Mossy Oaks was less expensive than they had anticipated, and Pigeon Point was more. Mr. Michau asked for a copy of the revised numbers.

Ms. Hill said at the next neighborhood meeting, the associations had asked for Chairman Farris to do a presentation.

SKIRTING/PLANTING FOR TRANSMISSION POLES – IDEAS/SITE RESEARCH

Ms. Hill said she'd received many questions about why nothing had been done. Until they have an answer from the communication companies about getting off of the wood poles , there's no real point in doing anything.

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT – BOARD SCOUTING EXCESS POLES/COORDINATION WITH CABLE COMPANIES

Chairman Farring said the homeowners were promised the wood poles would be gone and landscaping would be done. Chairman Farring asked how it gets moved forward. Mr. Michau said this has been an issue for six years in regard to the SCE&G wooden poles that other companies haven't moved their lines from. He feels Mayor Keyserling hasn't made it much of an issue and has told Mr. Michau that "they have lawyers" and it's a cost issue. The simplest solution, Mr. Michau feels, is for each of the companies to split the neighborhoods among themselves, rather than each one going to each pole. Ms. Hill said they can't do that because one company can't move another company's lines.

Ms. Hussey asked if there is no consequence to their promises. Ms. Hill said "no one promised." SCE&G won't pay the expense, and the city hasn't cost-shared as it did on Bladen. SCE&G will take out the poles as soon as they are denuded. Chairman Farring suggested it might be useful to have a letter writing campaign and send letters to the editor about it. Chairman Farring suggested a petition from residents at The Point which could be distributed to various parties and might lead to action. Ms. Hill said Tree Board scouting of areas where there are three poles in one spot, for example, would be useful to accompany a letter writing campaign.

Mr. Michau and the others from The Point have said they would do the scouting in The Point; he said the Tree Board could look at Pigeon Point and Mossy Oaks. Ms. Hussey said they would get a briefing at a future meeting from a resident and her electrician who would discuss the undergrounding she had done.

Mr. Michau discussed the formation of a beautification committee - they are making an effort to get the team together - and suggested the Boy Scouts could do the fire hydrant painting. Ms. Hussey said replacing signs and painting hydrants is easy, but the poles are more difficult. Chairman Farring said that's even harder than the undergrounding. **Peter Hussey** said that they can work to make an effort to get the companies to take this more seriously.

PRESENTATION OF SCOUTING REPORT AT 3/21 NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Chairman Farring said the Tree Board had talked about attending this meeting. Mr. Michau said to make sure that they would be at the top of the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD MEMBER

There was general discussion of people and professions who could serve on the Tree Board.

DISCUSSION

There was discussion of the ordinances of other Tree Boards. Mr. Arnett said the Wilmington ordinance was on the internet and seemed a little wordy. Chairman Farrior complimented Charleston's ordinance as a model for revision of the Beaufort ordinance. Mr. Wells said he'd download Greenville's ordinance, and there was general agreement that the Beaufort ordinance should be scrapped and modeled after a good one.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Wells made a motion, second by Mr. Arnett, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.