

**MINUTES
PLANNING BOARD
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019
7:00 PM
HOOD ROOM, MATTHEWS TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Chairman David Wieser; Members Mike Foster, Mike Rowan, and Natasha Edwards; Alternate Member Scott Query and Jonathan Clayton; Youth Voice Matheus Sadovsky; Acting Town Attorney Craig Buie; Senior Planner Mary Jo Gollnitz; Senior Administrative Specialist /Deputy Town Clerk Shana Robertson.

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Kerry Lamson; Members Jana Reeve and Larry Whitley

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Wieser called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Mike Rowan motioned to appoint Alternate Members Scott Query and Jonathan Clayton as voting members for the March 26, 2019 Planning Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Foster and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mike Foster motioned to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019 Planning Board meeting. Scott Query seconded and the motion to approve was unanimous.

WELCOME- New Planning Board Alternate Jonathan Clayton

New Planning Board Alternate Member, Jonathan Clayton was welcomed to the Board by Chairman Wieser.

ZONING MOTION 2019-1 – Tree Text Amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance

Senior Planner Mary Jo Gollnitz reviewed Motion 2019-1. She said at the March 11, 2019 Public Hearing, Commissioners had requested the removal of Sweet Gum and Black Gum trees from the approved list. The Appearance and Tree Board meet on March 8, 2019 and recommended that Sweet Gum be replaced with a fruitless *Rotundiloba* Sweet Gum. Ms. Gollnitz said that the advisory committee also noted that Black Gum trees should remain on the approved list because they did not bear fruit/Gumballs.

Mr. Rowan asked if this list was for new plantings or for tree and shrub preservation. Ms. Gollnitz explained that it was a list mainly used by residential and commercial developers. Ms. Gollnitz said that developers have to submit a landscape plan before final approval. She added that private property owners do not have to follow the list but it was suggested by the Town. Mr. Rowan asked for clarification on preserved trees. Ms. Gollnitz said that before a site is developed a vegetation survey is submitted to town staff. Champion and Heritage trees are identified during that review and marked for preservation.

Mr. Wieser asked for the review of possibly removing Virginia Creeper from the list saying that while it was a native plant and it was not invasive, it was an aggressive plant. Ms. Gollnitz said that the Tree and Appearance Advisory Committee reviewed the list and made suggestions. All ground cover that was listed is native to our area. Ms. Gollnitz confirmed that the Virginia Creeper could be an aggressive plant but was not invasive.

Mr. Query made a motion to recommend approval of zoning Motion 2019-1- Text Amendment to Table of Approved Tree List and Shrub List § 155.606.14 as presented because it is consistent with the Matthews Land Use Plan and reasonable as it allowed for an update to the Approved Tree and Shrub List of the Matthews Unified Development Ordinance. Mr. Clayton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Rowan inquired about the tree removal by Taft Development on Monroe Road and suggested that a recommendation be made to the Tree and Appearance Advisory Committee that values be placed on trees as he felt that the \$50,000 fine was not sufficient. Attorney Craig Buie said that the General Statute allowed for twice the value of the tree. Ms. Gollnitz added that the fine assessed was in accordance to the Town of Matthews Unified Development Ordinance and State Statute.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Foster motioned to adjourn and Natasha Edwards seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shana Robertson
Senior Administrative Specialist/Deputy Town Clerk