

THOMASTON TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 31, 2023

Attending: Jane Burdette Cathy Ashberry  
Luke Haney Susan Formby  
Levi Long - Absent Kyle McGee -- Public Works Director  
Lisa Salter - Absent Oasis Nichols – City Clerk  
Andrew Carroll – Upson Beacon  
Jamie Nowak – Ga Forestry Commission (Sustainable Community Forest  
Coordinator)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:59 a.m. by Chair Jane Burdette
2. Roll Call – Levi Long and Luke Haney were absent due to work issues. Lisa Salter was on vacation.
3. Adopt Agenda – Motion: Susan Formby. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Ashberry. Approved
4. Minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting approved. Motion: Susan Formby. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Ashberry.
5. Public Works Director Report – Kyle McGee reported that general maintenance was being carried out. Some limbs were being pruned to allow for passage of paving equipment on S and O streets. He suggested that we do a tree health assessment on the Dogwood trees because of a disease that is killing them.
6. Social Media – Susan Formby continues to find great articles to be posted. She took pictures of Tree Board members to be posted. Thank you, Susan!.
7. We continued discussion of the suggested yard tree recognition program. Oasis Nichols has ordered some signs for us. We hope to get that going soon. She has also ordered a

Tree Board banner to be used at community functions. Thank you, Oasis! Oasis updated us on the Growth Award Program. She believes we have about 15 points so far and believes we will receive the award again this year.

8. We reviewed our National Arbor Day program at the Dog Park and were pleased with the turn out.
9. We were pleased to welcome special guest Jamie Nowak. Jamie is with the Ga Forestry Commission. He is the Sustainable Community Forestry Coordinator. It is the desire of this Tree Board to leave a lasting legacy to the citizens of Thomaston by way of canopy restoration or some other impactful tree preservation project. The Ga Forestry Commission can bring many resources to help us accomplish this. Jamie told us about many, many ways the Forestry Commission can help. He will continue to work with and refer other experts to us as we determine the best project for us, but always with direction from Kyle McGee our Public Works Director.

Kyle suggested we could start by replacing the old Magnolia trees that have outgrown their space and are causing damage in East Thomaston.

We also discussed grants, workshops, tree protection ordinances, arbor equity, surveys and studies. A very informative and inspiring meeting.

10. Motion to adjourn made by Cathy Ashberry. . 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan Formby. Meeting adjourned at 1:12: p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jane S. Burdette, Chair