



**TREE COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 2024 - 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Members Present

Austin Goldman, Co-Chair
Roy Nydorf, Co-Chair
Nancy Stoudemire, Secretary
John Browning

Staff Present

Terry Lannon, Parks & Recreation Director
Brock Dunigan, Parks Crew Leader

(In lieu of a regular meeting, the committee met with Guilford County Extension Service members for a workshop seminar on pruning.)

1. INTRODUCTION

Guilford County Extension Services' Ben Grandon and Taylor Jones conducted a valuable pruning workshop for the ORTB members and the Oak Ridge Park Grounds & Maintenance Team utilizing actual trees on the park sites for demonstrations. Also discussed were the effective treatment of scale insects on the park's maples, demonstrated/discussed proper tree planting depth, proper mulching techniques, and best type of mulching material (triple ground pine bark mulch).

2. DISCUSSION OF RIVER BIRCH TREES LOCATED ON SOUTH SIDE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS

Discussion regarding best solution to propose concerning the river birch trees adjacent to the asphalt pathway on the south side of the park sports fields. The river birch trees are too close to the pathway. Already the tree roots extending under the asphalt have caused damage by heaving and cracking the asphalt creating dangerous ridges. (Possible solutions discussed, including A. total removal of the offending river birches, B. re-asphalting the problem areas, C. Replacement trees placed beyond the reach of their roots to any paved/solid pathway, D. or replant a smaller species, E. Discussion of different materials (concrete, crushed stone, etc.) for the walkways, F. relocating the pathway.

3. DISCUSSION OF APPLE TREE LOCATED ON SOUTH SIDE OF OAK RIDGE TOWN PARK

Discussion regarding the "old" apple tree on the south side of the park. Needs pruning of several large dead limbs in the canopy. Several old pruning cuts could be cut down closer to the limb collar (avoiding living tissue) to allow the pruning cut to "heal" over. Ben Grandon suggested that we graft branches from that tree to new stock in preparation for the eventual demise of that tree.

4. PRUNING ANALYSIS AT HERITAGE FARM PARK

A. ENTRANCE

Regarding the berm on left of entry, we should preserve all the fruit tree specimens on the berm. One upright limb of the beautiful flowering cherry tree at the end of the row that is rubbing should be removed. Is the Fire Dept planning a “screen” around their practice tower? Unclear regarding location of their screen?

B. VETERANS HONOR GREEN

Regarding the planned Veterans Memorial, two extension agents highly advised no construction (i.e further grading, digging, concrete work, etc.) within 30 feet of the loblolly pine tree bases to avoid root damages. This includes the back wall of the monument and pathways. Issues left to consider:

- How far will the “boardwalk “extend into the pines?
- Will footers be dug to support the boardwalk?
- How deep would the footers be?
- Will the footers damage or kill any existing trees?
- Are there plans to remove trees in order to install the boardwalk?
- Will the boardwalk be part of Phase 1 construction?
- How high off the ground would the boardwalk be?
- Any guardrails required on the boardwalk?
- Could the current natural cover of pine straw serve as a natural pathway?

5. FUTURE PLANNING FOR SHUMARD OAKS

- a. Prune every few years as required
- b. Remove oak trees and replace with low growing attractive shrubs /trees.
- c. Plant new trees on the opposite side of sidewalk. Begin replacement planting as soon as possible.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted:

Austin Goldman
Co-Chair

Roy Nydorf
Co-Chair