

Town of Beech Mountain
Tree Board
September 12, 2008-10:00 AM

1. Call to Order
2. Tony Hunter Presentation
3. Tree Conference Report
4. Adjourn

Chairperson Castiglione called the August meeting of the Beech Mountain Tree Board to order at 9:05 AM. Board members present were Rory Ellington, Marge Bailey, Cindy Keller, and Peter Patton. Also present were Town Manager Michael Boaz and Town Council member Alan Holcombe.

II. Discussion of Goals and Objectives- Chairperson Castiglione asked each Board member to share their vision for the Tree Board. All members agreed that they wanted to protect the Town's forest and help the Town develop ordinances that would do so and then to educate the citizens about those ordinances and help to enforce them.

III. Review of Tree Ordinances- The Board discussed the Town's tree ordinances and how these ordinances needed some revisions. Chairperson Castiglione stated that she would like to see the Registration of Tree Cutters section amended or removed from the ordinance because the Town could not guarantee that these registered tree cutters were competent. Mrs. Bailey stated that she did not like to see lot clear cut for the placement of modular homes. All agreed that some work was needed on the modular home ordinance to insure that trees were planted and that the trees lived. Mrs. Keller recommended that homeowners be required to put up a bond for the survival of the trees and to insure that the lot is cleaned up. Mr. Boaz informed the Board that before a building permit is issued, Town staff meet with the builder on site to determine the placement of dumpsters, port-a-johns, and which trees would be cut. These trees were marked and only those trees were allowed to be cut. Mr. Patton suggested that the trees be marked with paint and not tape.

III. Grant Forestry Grant Proposal- The Board discussed the Grant Proposal that was submitted by the Town. The Grant proposal calls for the development of a tree master plan, a new tree ordinance, and a tree inventory. The Town will match this amount with in kind contributions to help develop these items. The Town will match this amount with in kind contributions.

IV. Tree Consultant Proposal- Mr. Boaz reported that he had contacted Tony Hunter to provide a similar proposal but had not yet received the proposal. Mr. Ellington reported that he had spoken with a professor at NCSU, who seemed willing to help but was out of town and was not able to get us more information. Mr. Patton stated that he felt the bid from Mr. Locke was a little high and he thought that we could do better. All members agreed and Mr. Boaz and Chairperson Castiglione and Mr. Ellington will work to get additional bids before the September meeting.

V. Rules of Procedure for Advisory Boards- Mr. Boaz presented the Board with the Rules of Procedure that the Council would be considering at their August meeting. The Board agreed that these were simple and easy to follow rules.