

I. Call to Order

II. Regular Agenda and New Business

A. Welcome New Tree Board Member and Board Member

Introductions

- i. New member: Neal Bowman – educated in Forestry at VT, current focus on natives, local ecology. Work experience: gardens eg. Olde Salem Museum and Gardens. Current: Historial Society. Interest/problem solving: utility pruning, recycling leaf debris
- ii. Christine – experience: Master gardener, current volunteer at Fairy Stone State Park, Master Naturalist. focus on natives, concerns on climate change effects, beautification, community involvement
- iii. Peyton Nibblett – Deputy City Clerk
- iv. Greg Maggard – Public Works director for city, Tree Board city liaison
- v. Dean Cook – tree planting – focus on food production, climate change
- vi. Myiah Terry – Tree Board Staff Liasion
- vii. Anna Wheeler – employed by DRBA, studied Trees in college, assisted with college Tree Certification

B. Discuss Approval of Past Minutes

- i. Approved January minutes

C. Discussion of Potential Tree Board Activities for 2026

i. Past:

1. BugFest – 2/7 - Christine, Dean, Anna, Neal represented Board
 - a. Success for Community Outreach! “How do Trees Benefit YOU in Martinsville?”

ii. Future:

1. King’s Grant – Christine to present on 2/12 to residents at King’s Grant to promote “Leave the Leaves” to attract support of birdwatchers -> goal to put pressure on landscaping standards
2. Prioritize Tree Board Goals for 2026 -
 - a. Number 1: Develop Tree Palette
 - b. Number 2: Arbor Day Tree Planting
 - i. Location, acquisition of tree – possibly in Public Works ROW budget

c. Number 3: Social Media

- i. Community Outreach - “Yard of the Month” - social media campaign, goal to influence culture for what is “a perfect yard” - promote Leave the Leaves, not cutting back perennials, etc.
- ii. Adopt A Tree – spring and/or fall plantings, 10 trees/day, 40 trees/year depending on location approval and public interest
- iii. Uptown Planters – goal to reduce city budget -> eliminate Everything Outdoors contract for next year – enlist volunteers ex. Garden Club to maintain

1. Vote on favorite planter, Adopt a Planter

D. Discussion of Potential YMCA Partnership Project

- i. Tree List – board to develop recommended tree list for new YMCA development w/ suggested planting locations
- ii. Discussion regarding scope of work for Tree Board involvement
 1. Steps: Board needs to develop a tree palette for Development Code to be used in YMCA development project
 2. Martinsville Ordinance in development, will help determine further the scope of our involvement – could be limited
 3. Kris Bridges – concern to reduce budget: instead of Kris, Tree Board to consult on/review YMCA landscaping plan, long-term maintenance/renewal plan -> to renew plans every 10 years for less \$ than every 40 years for more \$\$\$. Goal to reduce budget for this development to encourage this and future developments.
 - a. Kris does not feel equipped to determine right tree right place for parking lot islands, etc.

III. Adjourn