

Town of James Island
Minutes of the Tree Council
February 11, 2025

Present: David Tomblin, Julie Hallman, Paul Cantrell, Jenny Welch and Robin Hardin & Town Council Liaison, Mayor Brook Lyon

Absent: Natalie Rumph & Staff Liaison, Keith LaDeaux

Minutes: Minutes of the January 14, 2025, meeting were approved.

Tree Award Nominations & Presentations: David nominated Camp & Dill Baptist Church for the Tree Steward Award. All agreed this is an excellent idea. Robin shared her selections of two Red Cedars in Ft. Johnson Estates and a Callery Pear. Callery Pear is related to the invasive Bradford Pear and will not be considered. Brook nominated the Glover's Live Oak at 14 Lighthouse Blvd. and all approved. The Dogwood on Condon Drive will be considered for the late April/May recipient. Julie agreed to help us stay ahead of the game and keep a calendar of trees we plan to nominate throughout the year.

With Keith LaDeaux's schedule, a date will be set to present the November Tree of Distinction Award to John Winfield, 923 Stiles Drive.

Spring 2025 Tree Giveaway: Locations/events for future tree giveaways were considered and included the Town's April 4th Market, Lighthouse Point's April 5th annual picnic and Charleston Horticulture Society's Plantasia, to be held this year at James Island County Park. David recommended that we distribute tublings, versus bareroot seedlings, as their larger size increases the chance of survivability. It was agreed that, given members' busy seasonal schedules, a spring tree giveaway is not doable. Brook suggested that Pecan Trees be distributed during the spring Tree Giveaway.

Other initiatives were considered. David shared information on the program Eddie Bernard, Urban Forester for the Town of Mt. Pleasant, presented to schools on large, medium and small trees. All agreed that a good initiative would be to plant a larger tree at a James Island school. Julie has contacted the Environmental Science teacher at James Island Charter High School and they would welcome a tree in their new Carolina Garden. David will look at the site and recommend an indigenous tree with a shallow root system. It will be decided who will plant the tree and an educational session will be hosted along with the planting. Paul will make signage for the tree.

Review TOJI TAC Budget/Financial Status: Of our \$5,000. annual budget, \$3,900. remains to be spent by 6/30/25. Council agreed that this money should be spent on planting new trees and removing/eradicating vines in locations identified by the Town's Tree Survey. Brook will seek the Town Arborist, Donnie Skinner's, assistance with this effort.

Review & Develop Calendar of Meetings for 2025: At the March meeting, we will discuss the educational program in conjunction with tree planting at James Island Charter High School. Our annual budget will be reviewed at the May meeting.

2025 Tree Ordinance Review: Members would still like to review the Tree Ordinance and review will be planned with Kristen Cane's schedule. Brook noted that Donnie Skinner is now reviewing all tree removal requests.

For the Good of the Order: It was suggested that the Town's Arborist be asked to join TOJI TAC and Brook will speak Donnie Skinner about becoming a member.

The next meeting of TOJI TAC will be Tuesday, March 11, 5pm