

Agenda for Appearance and Tree Advisory Committee – 8/17/2020

Members present:

Guests present:

Called to order:

Old Business:

1. Approve minutes from 6/15/20 meeting

Motion:

Seconded:

Vote:

2. Legacy Tree Program

Update from Ralph on brochure

Update from Jennifer Saunders and Devin Rankin on plaque design

3. Update on little library made of tree

4. Update on veteran's project at Stumptown Park

New Business:

**Appearance/Tree Advisory Committee
2020 Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
June 15, 2020**

Committee Members Present: Jill Palmer, Debbie Foster, Dein Rankin, Jennifer Saunders

Staff Present: Ralph Ramsaur, Lori Canapinno

Guests: Mark Tofano

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Old Business:

1. Approve previous minutes from 02/17/20 meeting:

Motion to approve: motion made by Devin Rankin

Seconded: motion seconded Jennifer Saunders

Vote: approved

2. Entrance Plantings Report

Debbie Foster reported that the W. John Street plantings are covering the sign all agreed to ask Lisa to move or trim. The plantings at the Route 51 entrance are still looking good.

3. Legacy Tree Program

Debbie Foster asked that we begin to take action on revitalizing the Legacy Tree Program in Matthews to identify trees of historical and botanical importance. The group discussed possible verbiage for a sign to be created to be placed by identified trees, potential locations we could identify and an edit of the current brochure adverting the Legacy Tree Program. Ralph stated we would need to

contact Maureen Keefe, Communications Coordinator to discuss promotion of Legacy program. Ralph has existing brochures but it needs updating. Ralph will work on editing the brochure. Discussion if we need any changes to the form such as adding health of tree. For example, the patio tree at Matthews Elementary has some decay. There is no current design for the plaque. Jennifer Sanders and Devin Rankin both have skills to design a sign. Debbie asked Ralph if there was a budget. Ralph will look at his budget to find some funds. A sturdy sign would cost more, plastic may work better as can have more graphics and verbiage. Devin and Jennifer will work on ideas and present next meeting.

New Business:

1. Debbie brought up the condition of some of the Town's American flags. Some need to be replaced and all discussion requested they be American made. Ralph stated this was brought up a staff meeting and all are made in US and which department would pay for them-Ralph thought Public Works department. Lori Canapinno commented that this was discussed by commissioners and flags are made in US. Public Works is responsible to replace. If committee members see one that needs to be replaced let Ralph or Lori know. There is a flag retirement box at Town Hall.

Email from Mark Tofano to Debbie Foster and Ralph Ramsaur:

From: Mark Tofano <mark.e.tofano@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 19, 2020 at 11:55 AM
Subject: Purchasing Of Veteran Related Flags
To: Tom Cannon <tcannon@matthewsnc.com>,
<dfoster@matthewsnc.com>

Hello, Tom and Debbie.

I hope that you are both doing well.

I am writing this email to you because both of your committees have spoken about displaying military or veteran related flags in town during upcoming holidays and events.

At both of your meetings I have requested that all American flags, military flags, POW/MIA flags and any other flags or banners promoting or honoring veterans or the military branches of service be made in America with American materials.

The month of May is a significant month for veterans, and for the military in general, with Armed Forces Day (May 16) and Memorial Day (May 25) being the main focus. There will be, or should be, a significant show of support by the town of Matthews for these and other events.

During the Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee (MVAC) meetings I have offered to personally pay for the difference between the purchase prices of foreign made and American made flags. This offer was made in order to insure that our men and women who are serving in uniform and who have sacrificed their lives for our country are honored in an appropriate way.

This offer was a short term solution. Going forward, I have requested, through MVAC, that the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution stating that all flags, banners and other public displays sponsored by the town be made in America with American materials.

With May fast approaching and with that month being so significant to veterans, the military and our country, I believe it would be an appropriate time for that resolution to be made.

The purpose of this email is to ask the both of you to submit a joint request to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for this resolution and that it be proclaimed during the April 27th meeting (preferred) or the May 11th meeting.

Thank you both for your consideration of this request.

Mark Tofano

2. Stumptown Park Veterans Memorials

- Flag pole
- Wall

Scott Rawls mentioned to Ralph that it should be in P & R budget to do additional plantings to hide the gas station and make the memorial look more attractive. Ralph will work with staff to get weeding done that has been set aside since COVID. Devin suggested a Veteran's auxiliary group that could take over the maintenance of the weeding and planting. Jill and Ralph both like the idea of getting volunteers to maintain this area of Stumptown Park.

Mark Tofano spoke: Mark was at the meeting on Sunday with Lisa Thompkins from Its Elemental Landscaping and the artists group. The artist group will do some drawings and Lisa will do plantings. Mark has submitted plans to Scott Rawls and Corey King in the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding will be done by the Veterans group. Plans will be ready after the 4th of July. Once Lisa Thompkins does the drawing the project will be ready to be implemented. Would like to have an opening on November 11.

Email from Mark Tofano to Debbie Foster and Ralph Ramsaur:

Hello, Debbie and Ralph.

This morning I met with Scott Rawls (Parks & Rec) and Tom Cannon (chairman of the Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee) at Stumptown Park in the veterans memorial area.

The purpose of the meeting was to go over a number of suggested improvements to the area. The current condition is quite poor and does not properly reflect the town's commitment to veterans.

As we were chatting, the idea came to mind that this would be a wonderful project for the Appearance and Tree Committee and a project that could certainly get the community involved.

If your schedules would permit, I would like to meet with both of you (and whoever else you may wish to attend) at Stumptown Park to walk the memorial area and discuss how the Appearance and Tree Committee could be part of making this area appear as it should in order to honor and respect our fallen veterans with pride.

Would Friday afternoon (6/5/2020) work for both of you?

If not, please offer alternatives.

Thank you,

Mark
704-804-1443

Motion to adjourn: Jill P motioned that we adjourn

Seconded: Jennifer Saunders seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 7:51 PM