

TOWN OF JONESBOROUGH  
Town Hall Board Room  
123 Boone Street  
Jonesborough, TN 37659

MEETING NOTICES

Monday, July 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

*Members of the public wishing to speak concerning any item on the agenda during the Public Comment period must sign up by calling the Town Administrative Office at (423)-753-1030 with their name, address, and subject about which they wish to speak no later than 2 hours before the meeting if the meeting occurs during normal business hours or by 4:45 p.m. the day of the meeting if the meeting occurs after hours. Otherwise, such member of the public must sign in at the location of the meeting, prior to the beginning of the meeting, by seeing the Town Recorder at meetings of the Tree and Townscape Board, or the secretary or staff of any board, commission or committee constituting any other governing body under this resolution.*

*Each individual shall be given three (3) minutes to address the Board regarding Agenda items. Comments shall be limited to items on the meeting's agenda.*

The Jonesborough Tree and Townscape Board will meet at 11 a.m., Monday, July 28, 2025, in the Board Room at Town Hall, 123 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN, to consider the following agenda:

AGENDA:

1. Call to order
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Shredded Mulch in Jonesborough
5. Tree Canopy Assessment

Town of Jonesborough  
Tree and Townscape Board  
Meeting Minutes for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

The Jonesborough Tree and Townscape Board met in a regular meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 11:06 a.m. in the Board Room at the Town Hall, Jonesborough, Tennessee. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Present: Terry Countermine, Lori Rosenoff, Nancy Kavanaugh, Melinda Copp, Teresa Smith, Melissa Ganshirt

Staff: Lauren Little

Absent: Geoff Hoare, Sue Henley, Virginia Kennedy

Nancy Kavanaugh called the meeting to order noting that a quorum was present.

There were no public comments.

**Item 4. New Members**

The June 2025 BMA meeting appointed two new members to the Tree and Townscape Board. We happily welcome Melissa Ganshirt and Teresa Smith. Melissa loves Jonesborough and loves the community we have established here. She is excited to be a part of the Tree and Townscape board. Teresa is passionate about historic landscaping and grew up in Jonesborough. She is excited to be a part of this board!

**Item 5. Monarch Waystation**

Stage Road Park has seen multiple improvements over the last year including the addition of a rain garden! This garden is at the crossroads of the freshly paved walking paths. This area harbors the excess runoff from the street and paths after heavy rain events. The terrain is depressed, making it suitable to hold water for plants that love wet feet! The area has been planted with Swamp Milkweed, various species of mint, and other perennials making this a pollinator haven in our local park. Due to the presence of Swamp Milkweed, we will be able to aid in the population recovery of the Monarch butterfly. Milkweed is a keystone species for the monarch, without it, the butterfly cannot complete its delicate lifecycle.

The Monarch Waystation Program is an opportunity to conserve this small but crucial area in our parks system and provide education for the public. A \$36 fee paid

directly to the program provides us with signage and a certificate officiating the presence of the Monarch Waystation.

The Board discussed how education for the public is of the upmost importance when it comes to pollinators and native plants. The board made a motion to approve the allocation of funds from the Tree and Townscape budget for the certification of the Stage Road Park Monarch Waystation. Lori Rosenoff seconded the motion for the Monarch Waystation certification and signage purchase.

#### **Item 6. Ardinna Woods Arboretum Update**

The Ardinna Woods arboretum is in bloom as summer comes into full swing! There have been many hours of volunteer work put into the space by the Dirty Street Fighters of Jonesborough and long-standing volunteers. The arboretum now has a gently used wheelbarrow donated by Terry and Sandy Countermine to replace the older ones no longer useful.

Frances Lamberts has been the keystone in the founding and upkeep of the arboretum. We are all grateful for her dedication to native plant restoration and public education. Frances has recently decided to step down from an active role in Ardinna woods to be more passive. I am confident that we must do something as a board to honor her years of service not only to the arboretum but to this board as well in years past. Chris Kudera and I have discussed multiple options including an updated sign for the butterfly garden, naming a different piece of a park after her, etc.

The question was proposed to the board about what the best option would be to honor Frances. The board members agreed the best option is to reach out to Foster Signs with a design to receive a quote on. The board discussed making a sign with a photo or painting of Frances in the background surrounded by coneflowers, her favorite native perennial.

#### **Additional board comments:**

The Mill Spring Fox Street greenspace was mentioned by Melinda Copp for some needed updates to the landscaping. Previous landscaping close to the building has died and there was inquiry as to getting evergreen replacements for these shrubs and short, native perennials in the beds. The future ownership of this plot depends on lease renewal agreements by the current leasee.

The board discussed the Jonesborough triangle in front of the Shell station on 11E. There is a desire to have the landscaping updated with color and limited obstruction of the Historic Jonesborough sign by plant material. Multiple board members mentioned that individuals new to the area have voiced a desire to them to update the sign appearance and landscaping. This is one of the major entrances to Historic Jonesborough, so the

initial impression holds significance. The request was for low growing shrub species and seasonal bloom rotation. However, it was mentioned by the board that due to the location along 11E, state approval is required for updates to this area.



# TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

## ***AGENDA PRESENTATION***

**DATE:** July 28, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM #:** 4

**SUBJECT:** Shredded Mulch in Jonesborough

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Town of Jonesborough has used Pine Bark Mini Nuggets as mulch throughout all town areas since I have been a town employee and for many years prior. The mini nuggets provide a uniform appearance across town, are easy to apply, and easy to turn for a color refresh. However, this mulch type washes away easily and is not effective as a weed barrier. The Parks and Recreation department in conjunction with Mayor Wolfe and Town Administrator Glenn Rosenoff has investigated shredded mulch as an alternative to the mini nuggets. Shredded mulch is cheaper per cubic foot, naturally interlocks with itself to keep from blowing or washing away, and provides an effective weed barrier.

Pine Bark Shredded Mulch is the same color as the current mini nuggets, preventing a dramatic change to the landscape. To begin incorporating shredded mulch into Jonesborough, the Parks and Recreation department would start with the new Jonesborough Elementary School and the 11E Medians. The cost savings for these vast areas will be beneficial to the budget for this fiscal year as well as labor savings by utilizing the Dirty Street Fighters for spreading.

We especially recommend switching to shredded mulch for the 11E medians to prevent fallout onto the highway causing safety issues and aesthetic disturbances. You may recall seeing mulch pile up along the curblin along the medians in front of Bojangles and Pal's. This is an example of the mini nuggets' propensity to wash away in the event of heavy rain or wind from the excessive traffic.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend that the Tree and Townscape Board approve the shift from Pine Bark Mini Nuggets to Pine Bark Shredded mulch for the new Jonesborough Elementary School and the 11E Medians.



# TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

## ***AGENDA PRESENTATION***

**DATE:** July 28, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM #:** 5

**SUBJECT:** Jonesborough Tree Canopy Assessment

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Jonesborough Tree Canopy Assessment compiled by Alex Bremner of the TN Forestry Department explains the state of our town's tree coverage, positive consequences of tree coverage, and suggestions for Jonesborough to improve woody and herbaceous cover. The study found an average of 33.25% tree coverage in Jonesborough which equates to roughly 1,122 acres of trees and an herbaceous cover of 38.25% or 1275 acres.

Trees are especially important in our community for carbon sequestration. The amount of carbon sequestered by the acreage of trees in Jonesborough annually equates to 40,000 tons, with a value of \$17.33 per ton. Besides carbon, the trees in our town remove excess "ozone, air particulates, and avoided runoff". With an increase in urban development across East Tennessee, water runoff is an issue that will only increase with the increase of impervious surfaces. Our current average percentage of impervious surfaces is 22%.

The data in this assessment can be used to create goals for Jonesborough's canopy such as more community outreach through surveys to understand where trees and herbaceous plant communities are lacking. Surveys engage locals, people new to the area who may have unique or fresh outlooks on the town and invite different perspectives to the conversation. Through surveys we can learn what areas are lacking tree coverage or herbaceous coverage and investigate creative ways to accomplish the need.

Results such as ours that are high in tree coverage can act as an incentive to not lose status. As many of you know we are a Tree City for going on 21 years now, and this is no small feat. To maintain and increase tree coverage takes time and increasing funding. One goal I have for the Town of Jonesborough coming out of 20 years as a Tree City and receiving high marks on our canopy assessment is to update and improve the maintenance plans we have in place for our parks system. This can be fleshed out

in a myriad of ways, but I believe maintenance is the only logical place to begin. As we maintain we can introduce more without sacrificing what we have.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Below are suggestions from the assessment of what the information provided can be used for.

“The findings from this study can be used to:

- Develop urban tree canopy goals to protect and conserve the current and future canopy in Jonesborough.
- Act as a first step to help develop or expand town wide tree inventories, management plans, and work schedules.
- Provide a baseline for what the tree canopy in the Town of Jonesborough looks like as of 2025.
- Help guide tree planting efforts to focus on areas of potential lacking or limited canopy coverage.
- Incentivize expanding legislation and policies to better protect and expand tree canopy.
- Showcase the economic benefits that the tree canopy in Jonesborough provides.”