

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

MEETING NOTICES

Monday, April 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, April 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. Arbor Day 2025
5. Ardinna Woods Arboretum Update
6. Visitor Center Landscaping

Town of Jonesborough

Tree and Townscape Board

Meeting Minutes for February 24th, 2024

The Jonesborough Tree and Townscape Board met in a regular meeting on Monday, February 24th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Town Hall, Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Present: Terry Countermine, Sue Henley, Nancy Kavanaugh, Melinda Copp, Jennifer Wolf

Staff: Lauren Little, Julia Hawkins (Parks and Recreation staff present to help with recording)

Absent: Geoff Hoare, Lori Rosenoff, Virginia Kennedy

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

There were no public comments.

Item 1. Tree and Townscape Board 2025

As per the Tree and Townscape ordinance, at the beginning of each year the Tree and Townscape Board is to discuss our meeting time, date, and board member distinctions. Nancy Kavanaugh has been recognized as chair in our previous meetings. The ordinance states the board should be recognizing a chair, vice chair, and secretary. The board voted to keep Nancy Kavanaugh in position of chair, voted Terry Countermine to be in position of vice chair, and the secretary position was left open.

The board voted to maintain the original schedule to meet on the fourth Monday of every month at 11 a.m.

Item 2. Ardinna Wood Arboretum Update

Ardinna Woods Arboretum is being maintained through weeding and tree maintenance in preparation for further ground clean-up and new planting. A new volunteer, Matthew Woods, will be working in the arboretum through the warm months to aid in weeding, planting, and plant identification. Once Spring weather arrives coneflowers and prickly pear cacti will be transplanted within the arboretum to more conducive areas.

It was approved by the majority to use Tree and Townscape Funds to purchase new plant identification signs and new information kiosks for the arboretum.

Item 3. Arbor Day 2025

Arbor Day will be a week long celebration this year from April 22nd to the 25th. The town will be giving away 200 free saplings to the public, planting two trees at Stage Road Park, and offering various tree themed activities to the public throughout the week. These activities will include tree ID hikes with a state forester, arts and crafts, and participation from our local Jonesborough Elementary School to present tree-themed literary works at our multiple tree plantings. Arbor Day will have multiple guest speakers from our Tennessee Division of Forestry to speak on behalf of Arbor Day and Jonesborough. The Arbor Day celebration will have multiple sponsors including First Horizon Bank, SiteOne, and BrightRidge.

Alex Bremner, our East TN Division of Forestry Representative was present at the Tree and Townscape Meeting. He kindly agreed to speak to the committee about his role as the East TN representative and how his team will be able to help Jonesborough with our future tree endeavors. Including but not limited to, funding and volunteer help.

The board voted unanimously to allocate Tree and Townscape funds to the purchase of a membership to the American Chestnut Foundation in order to receive chestnut saplings for Arbor Day.

Item 4. Greenhouse at Persimmon Ridge Park

Gravel for the greenhouse base has been laid. The next step is construction of the structure and building tables for plants to sit on. This is an exciting new opportunity for the Jonesborough community.

Item 5. Tree and Townscape Project 2025

A project proposal for the board was discussed. The main idea discussed was a rain garden in one of the Jonesborough parks. The rain garden would be sponsored by the board with native plants and have an educational sign to explain the significance of the garden.

The purpose of the garden would be to mitigate stagnant water that can invite insect pests and disease, making that space undesirable to park goers. The purpose of the project for the board is to encourage board involvement with the community and foster a sense of purpose for the board past approving landscape plans.

To properly design the rain garden, the board approved allocation Tree and Townscape funds to purchasing a 3-D modeling program called Sketch-Up.

The board received the idea with optimism and the board looks forward to the next steps which are detailed here.

- Decide what park the rain garden should be in.
- Design the layout of the rain garden.
- Purchase the plants and incorporate them into the area in accordance with the design.
- Create an educational sign to be placed with the garden.
- Maintain the area with consistent weeding and re-planting as needed.

Additional board comments:

Sue Henley voiced concern over the creek running behind the Courthouse of Jonesborough. Her concern is that it is becoming overcrowded with sediment and vegetation. This area is under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation.

It was suggested by Nancy Kavanaugh that we have more articles published in the *Herald and Tribune* to promote town activities and discuss what projects are happening in Jonesborough's parks.



TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

AGENDA PRESENTATION

DATE: April 28, 2025

AGENDA ITEM #: 4

SUBJECT: Arbor Day 2025

BACKGROUND:

This year, Arbor Day was held as a weeklong celebration to commemorate the special holiday. Arbor Day in Jonesborough brought community engagement, local student artwork, education, and more trees into our town! What a special week to bring attention to the importance of trees not only in our neighborhoods but for the world.

Tuesday the 22nd of April the Jonesborough Elementary School 2nd grade art class came to the Ardinna Woods Arboretum to plant 3 American Chestnut trees on the property. Angus McCord, representative of the American Chestnut Foundation, graciously came to speak to the children about the history and importance of this great native tree. Three representatives of the Tennessee Department of Forestry also came to speak to the children about why our forests matter and how we best care for them. We also learned about Smokey Bear!

On Wednesday the 23rd, Brandon Lemmons of the TN Department of Forestry led a Tree ID Hike in Persimmon Ridge Park. This hike was open to the public to learn about our native trees and how we can identify them accurately. A hike in Persimmon Ridge always proves fruitful as we meet members of our community and come together over a shared interest of the outdoors.

The 24th, Thursday, the town Street Department hung up our new Tree City USA signs along 11E celebrating 20 years of Tree City status! To continue the festivities to celebrate these feats, we held a craft activity with Jonesborough elementary. Small rounds of clay were given to over 100 children to pick a leaf of their choosing to press into the air-dry clay. This is a project they took home to present to families and guardians to celebrate Arbor Day and what native trees they learned about through the pressing. The kids had a blast using creativity to learn about the natural world. Many of them enjoyed the leaves more than the clay!

At the time of writing this agenda, the official arbor day ceremony of the 25th has not occurred. At the time of the Tree and Townscape Board meeting I will have a full report for the board of the events of the 25th of April, 2025.



TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

AGENDA PRESENTATION

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

SUBJECT: Ardinna Woods Arboretum Update

BACKGROUND:

The arboretum has gained a new volunteer, Tyler Dunn. Tyler just recently graduated from ETSU with a degree in Chemistry and Mycology. He has worked with Frances through volunteering and through classes at ETSU. Tyler is interested in volunteering 3 days a week performing the necessary tasks provided to him such as weeding, planting, and watering. I am excited to have Tyler on the Jonesborough team!

This month, the arboretum was chosen to host one of the many arbor day events the week of the 21st. On the 22nd students from Jonesborough Elementary School came out to plant 3 American Chestnut Trees that we will closely monitor for blight and other issues. Getting to try again after having Chestnuts planted in the arboretum at least once before is exciting and I hope it stays as a lasting event.

Tyler, Frances, Julia, and I worked to transplant multiple plants within the arboretum to areas where they would be better suited. The coneflower bed had overgrown its bounds and columbine flower had spread all over the arboretum. These two were transplanted to adjacent plots to allow room for further spread. The arboretum is improving, and I am excited to see all the progress we have made over the last year.

The arboretum has accumulated many different types of tools over the years. However, some tools including two wheelbarrows have fallen into disrepair. I present to the board a recommendation to supply a new wheelbarrow for the arboretum out of our funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

Supply the arboretum with a new wheelbarrow. Typical cost ranges from \$100-\$150.



TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

AGENDA PRESENTATION

DATE: April 28, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM #:** 6

SUBJECT: Visitor Center Landscaping

BACKGROUND:

The members of the Visitor Center have voiced a desire to spruce up the landscaping around the center. Specifically, the marquee, and the northwest side of the building. Based on the original landscape plan, we would like to use many of the original plants listed to go back in. This includes the rain garden labeled in the plan by the marquee where the gutter flows into the rock. Plants not originally listed that I would like to use in the rain garden are Blue Lobelia and Dwarf Joe Pye Weed. Both native plant species do well with wet feet and add colorful texture to the landscape. Along the northwest side of the building, the only plant I would like to add that is not in the original plan is the TN coneflower.

I also would like to relocate the Fothergilla from in front of the marquee to the edges and along the northwest side of the building where they can grow with a natural habit without creating a visual obstruction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Replant many of the originally listed species from the 2008 landscape plan to ensure cohesion while adding 3 new species to the Visitor Center design. The recommended species Blue Lobelia, Dwarf Joe Pye Weed, and TN Coneflower are native and hold significance for the state of TN.