

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

MEETING NOTICES

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 12:00 p.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 12 p.m., Wednesday, August 27, 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. Requested Change of Meeting Time
5. International Storytelling Center Landscape Plan

Town of Jonesborough
Tree and Townscape Board
Meeting Minutes for June 23rd, 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: August 27, 2025

AGENDA ITEM #: 4

SUBJECT: Requested Change of Meeting Time

BACKGROUND:

The Tree and Townscape Board members have voiced a desire to push back the current meeting time of 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Monday of every month. Scheduling the meeting for 10:00 a.m. would better accommodate the diverse commitments of board members, leading to improved attendance. Improving attendance will result in meeting quorum requirements so landscape plans and other initiatives placed for this board's review can be properly approved. If there is a time that will work better than 10:00 a.m. for the majority of board members, this time can be discussed now.

RECOMMENDATION:

Move the official time of meeting for the Tree and Townscape Board to 10:00 a.m. or an alternate time as discussed and voted on by the majority of the board.



TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

AGENDA PRESENTATION

DATE: August 27, 2025 AGENDA ITEM #: 5

SUBJECT: International Storytelling Center Landscape Plan

BACKGROUND:

The International Storytelling Center is a staple landmark in Jonesborough. For many years the river birch that lined the brick staircase provided shade and a naturalized feel to the walkway. However, as the trees have matured the growth habit has led them to arch over the Storytelling Center as well as the McLeod Organics shop. The immense amount of leaf fallout leads to gutter issues and threatens the structural integrity of the rooves due to the weight of damp leaf masses. The brick staircase is also a point of concern as in years past the tree roots have created a safety concern by lifting the brick. Many tree species planted in tight, urban spaces such as these are prone to damaging concrete, brick, or other construction materials in search of water and nutrients. They remind us how strong nature can be!



Due to the layers of damage caused by the river birch, the Parks and Recreation department made a consecutive decision to remove the trees from the landscape. This has left a great space for opportunity! The photo above shows a bird's eye view of the property. This landscape plan includes: *Amsonia tabernaemontana* or Blue Star Amsonia as well as *Penstemon* or Beardtongue including a mix of short and tall.

Amsonia offers seasonal color including a beautiful golden hue in the fall. Beardtongue is a spring through summer blooming perennial offering a variety of colors and sizes throughout the season.



RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Tree and Townscape Board approve the landscape plan as created and submitted by Lauren Little, Open Spaces Coordinator.