

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

MEETING NOTICES

Monday, June 23, 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, June 23, 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. New Members
5. Monarch Waystation
6. Ardinna Woods Arboretum Update

# Town of Jonesborough

## Tree and Townscape Board

### Meeting Minutes for February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Jonesborough Tree and Townscape Board met in a regular meeting on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. 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:** June 23, 2025    **AGENDA ITEM #:** 4

**SUBJECT:** New Members

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Today we are welcoming two new members to the Tree and Townscape Board! Teresa Smith and Melissa Ganshirt. As summer comes into full swing it is an exciting time to bring new eyes and ears to the board. Teresa and Melissa, if you would like to say a few words to introduce yourself to the board, please do! We are so happy you are here!

As a reminder to us all, our dedication to this board is dedication to our town. We put aside this time to discuss what we can do to make Jonesborough a beautiful and inviting place to visit and live through plant life. Thank you for your willingness to be here and invest your time to Tennessee's oldest town!



# **TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE**

## ***AGENDA PRESENTATION***

**DATE:** June 23, 2025      **AGENDA ITEM #:** 5

**SUBJECT:** Monarch Waystation

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### **BACKGROUND:**

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! We have planted this area with Swamp Milkweed, various species of mint, and other perennials making this a pollinator 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

I propose to the board we spend \$36 out of our allocated budget for the purchase of the sign and status.



# TREE & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

## ***AGENDA PRESENTATION***

**DATE:** June 23, 2025 **AGENDA ITEM #:** 6

**SUBJECT:** Ardinna Woods Arboretum Update

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Ardinna Woods Arboretum is in full bloom as we walk into summer! The TN Coneflower is a sight to behold, and many other trees, shrubs, and perennials are showing off all throughout the area.

While beautiful, this area becomes quickly overgrown with weeds and undergrowth. The lady Dirty Street Fighters have been working in the arboretum to clear out the undergrowth and weedy areas, making the space open and walkable. It is a great improvement! We look forward to working with this team multiple times over the summer and fall seasons to maintain the arboretum.

Multiple trees and limbs have been removed that were deemed unsafe. Frances and Tyler, volunteer from ETSU, worked diligently to transplant multiple TN coneflowers, blue flag irises, and native columbine into their own plots to encourage easy identification and natural spreading.

We have faithful volunteers who work multiple hours during the week to keep the butterfly garden clear and transplant any flowers that have overgrown their bounds.

We have received a generous donation from the Countermines of a new-to-us wheelbarrow to use for the arboretum! Thank you!

I am confident that we will be successful in re-certification by next Spring!

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. I am looking for your input and ideas!

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Come up with an idea for honoring France's hard work and dedication to keeping Jonesborough beautiful.