



Minutes
The Milton Tree Preservation Committee
Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION:

Milton City Hall
Council Chambers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Roger Festa
Zack Middlebrooks
Adam Orkin
Scott Gronholm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Cherilyn Allen
David Holcomb
Diane Palmer

GUEST ATTENDEES

Joe Padilla

MILTON STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Law, City Arborist
Matt Zyjewski, Community Development Intern

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Approval of the minutes for August 27 meetings.
- 3) Brief on last meeting
- 4) Tree Removal Permit
- 5) Additional discussion
- 6) Public comment
- 7) Adjournment

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CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order by City Arborist, Mark Law

INTRODUCTION

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- Deferred until next meeting on September 24, 2008.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Discussion of Tree Removal Information Packet and Application:

Mark Law

- This is mainly guidelines for the individual property owners wanting to get tree removal permits.
- Commercial tree removal will be addressed separately in LDP process.

Mark Law

- 6"DBH gives flexibility for smaller trees

Roger Festa

- Cannot go lower than 6"DBH (for larger trees)

Scott Gronholm

- Raised questions
 - Do we really want people to pay to remove a 6" tree?
 - Is \$35 going to cover all processing?

Roger Festa

- Should not be out to make profits on tree removal permits

Scott Gronholm

- Thought 8" would be a better requirement than a 6" tree requirement

Roger Festa

- Should be able to do tree removal permits online and pay
- Group agrees that 8" requirement would work best

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Roger Festa

- Question about arborist certification checklist
- Leaving something wide open in 3rd certification check
- Question about “unsightly” and what that means

Mark Law

- Some jurisdictions require bonds from tree service companies

Roger Festa

- Concerned about insurance, liability, and workers comp regarding tree removal companies

Roger Festa

- Remove third check point and replace with “other”

Mark Law

- Need to work on additional fee details, such as mitigation fees if owner wants to remove more than 6 trees

Adam Orkin

- Likes the language contained in City of Kirkland tree removal permit

Adam Orkin

- If an owner is caught removing, should go through recompense procedure, rather than a regulation or just fine
- Perhaps use fines to be placed in the tree fund

Scott Gronholm

- Prefers penalties
- Should double recompense
- Maybe could place a lien on property

Mark Law

- Need to come up with something that can be easily enforced and will take little time,
- Ordinance needs to be enforceable

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Scott Gronholm

- Would be great to have administrative variance, perhaps 15% reduction to reduce parking if specimen tree is saved

Roger Festa

- Need to prioritize what is to be done with tree fund money

Adam Orkin

- Asked Mark if he could ask Alice Wakefield the "proper" way to give incentive to get the city to save trees?"

Roger Festa

- Should work on definitions next meeting,
- Vote on tree removal permit next meeting.

Mark Law

- There will discussion of violations and enforcement at next meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Padilla

- Likes equity concept of applying tree removal permits to residential and not just commercial,
- Likes idea of raising awareness
- Recommends adding tree removal information on closing papers when people are buying/selling homes
- May receive some pushback from realtors, but would benefit homeowners

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Wednesday, September 24, 2008 @ 3:30 p.m.
- Location: City Hall Executive Conference Room, Suite 107-G


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ADJOURNMENT

- There was no further business
- The Milton Tree Preservation Committee meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Date Approved: 10-22-08

APPROVED BY:



Francesca Ivie
City Clerk's Office



Mark Law, City Arborist