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George F. Goosmann, III, Mayor
Doris P. Loomis, Mayor-Pro Tem
Fran G. Cogburn, Commissioner
E. Glenn Kelly, Commissioner

Jonathan B. Kanipe,
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Board of Commissioners
From: Jonathan Kanipe, Town Manager
Re: Agenda Item Number D-4 – Review of Draft Amendments to Town Code (Tree Protection Ordinance)
Date: January 6, 2021

Background

Last month, the Board offered suggestions at potential changes to the Town's Tree Protection Ordinance. Town staff reviewed the discussion from last month's meeting and have provided the Board with the attached potential amendments for review.

Changes within this Version

The enclosed draft specifies trees replanted must be located within fifty (50) feet of the original location and need to be replanted within six (6) months, instead of eighteen (18) months that is in the current ordinance. An additional change within this draft requires the replanting of any tree that is removed or falls, even by act of God, on parcels within the Town that are equal to or greater than five (5) acres.

This draft also clarifies the role of the Town's Zoning Ordinance, and triggers included within it, as it relates to Board of Adjustment review and approval. This is typically related to land disturbing activities including new homes, subdivisions, or other development. Further clarification is made to affirm that the tree protection ordinance is applicable only to trees that are six (6) inches in diameter at 4 ½ feet height. All trees that do not reach this threshold are not regulated under this ordinance. This is not a change, but rather, an affirmation of the standard for a tree to be regulated under the ordinance.

Attachment

- Draft amendments to Tree Protection Ordinance