

MISSION OF THE COMMITTEE

To provide a forum for discussion of ideas, concepts, and methods to preserve trees and protect the tree canopy,

To make recommendations to County Council to encourage the preservation and replacement of trees which may be lost in the process of residential and commercial real estate development and to propose minimum standards for Council to consider, and

To provide educational and other useful information about historic and significant specimen trees and tree categories and to encourage people to preserve and nurture trees so classified.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Diane Eldridge

Conservation Planning Consultant

Sandra Hamann

Greenville Council of Garden Clubs

C. Doug Harper

Commercial Developer

David Holmes, Chair

Attorney

Kim Kauffman

Landscape Architect

Tom Keith

Landscape Architect

Dan Rawls

Greenville County Planning Commission

Gordon Seay

Greenville Association of Realtors

Coleman Shouse

Home Builders Association of Greenville

Steven Smith

Forester

Todd Ward

Greenville County Planning Commission staff

Jimmy Forbes

Director of Greenville County Planning Commission, non-voting facilitator

Post your comments on Jeanne Brooks' blog about a potential tree ordinance

http://news.greenvilleonline.com/blogs/brooks/2006/05/firestorm_abuilding.html

Keeping the GREEN in GREENville



May 19 2006

Greenville County Tree Policy Advisory Committee Continues its Work

At the eighth regular Committee meeting on May 11, four speakers shared their expertise and perspectives about a possible county tree ordinance.

Walt McPhail, representing the Greenville County Forestry and Wildlife Society, emphasized the importance of the small tree farmer to the forestry industry. He recognized the benefits that trees provide our communities including keeping our air clean, reducing flooding and erosion, and providing shade and beauty. He supported the adoption of a tree ordinance that protects trees but does not hinder a small tree farmer from harvesting timber.

Mark Nix, Executive Director of the S.C. Landowners Association, stated that tree ordinances vary among communities, can be complex, and that each community needs to develop its own according to its own needs. He cautioned the Committee against developing recommendations that place a financial burden on property owners and suggested that single-

family homeowners be exempt.* He stated that he would not be opposed to a tree ordinance that applies to new residential and commercial development. (*Editor's Note: The Committee was previously instructed by Council not to consider regulations that affect single-family homeowners.)

Dave Hargett of Northwind, Inc. represented the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium (SRWC) and emphasized the importance of riparian buffers to the health of rivers and streams. He explained that healthy riparian areas are essential to reducing the impacts of flooding and trapping sediments and pollutants. He compared the runoff coefficient (the percentage of water that will run off the ground surface during a storm) for a forest (5 per cent) with an impervious surface (95 per cent). The SRWC has examined the riparian zones along the Reedy River and found that in most urbanized areas, forested buffers have been eliminated. Dr. Hargett recommended that a minimum buffer of 35 feet be protected along rivers and

streams, and more when possible.

Don Ham, Emeritus Professor of Forestry at Clemson and principal of the Laurus Group, reported that the Southern Forest Resource Assessment cites urbanization as the biggest threat to the forestry industry in this region. He stated that tree protection can be integrated into development with little to no additional cost and suggested that retaining trees on development sites can reduce the need for stormwater management facilities and thus reduce construction costs.

During the public comment period, county resident Bill Crawford stated that trees add value to our community and expressed his support for a countywide tree ordinance. He recommended a tree survey prior to development to identify trees that should be saved.

**NEXT REGULAR
COMMITTEE MEETING
May 25 8:00 a.m.
Greenville County Square
Conference Room B**

ATTEND A PUBLIC HEARING AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Approximately 30 people attended the May 11 public hearing at Bell's Crossing Elementary School to share their thoughts about a potential tree ordinance for Greenville County. The majority of those attending were overwhelmingly in favor of a strong ordinance that provides protection for certain existing trees and that sets minimum requirements for planting trees in new developments. One person stated his hopes that the ordinance will not require a permit to cut trees on his own property. In general, the audience was concerned about the length of time the Committee is taking to make recommendations to County Council and the amount of time Council will take before they pass an ordinance, during which many more trees will be lost.

NEXT PUBLIC HEARING May 25 6:30 p.m. Woodmont High School 2831 West Georgia Road