DARLINGTON CITY TREE BOARD
Minutes from Monday, November 6, 2017 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall, 400 Pearl St.

Attending were Tree Board members Mr. Ervin, Ms. Jules, Mr. James, and Ms. Brown and Ms. Rock, planning director. There were no guests in attendance.

Ms. Rock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Arbor Day Project Selection

Ms. Rock asked for tree planting location suggestions to prepare for Arbor Day on Dec. 1.

Ideas included additional dogwood trees along Cashua Street near downtown for color in the spring; locations along South Main Street since it is the main entrance to the City; trees along the parking lot near the hotel on the Bypass; replacement of a recently removed tree in a parking island on the Square near the Public Walkway; additional magnolias around the City flagpoles near Auddie Brown Chevrolet; additional crepe myrtles on West Broad Street at First Baptist to mirror the plantings on the opposite side of the street; and large trees to screen the trailer park on Orange Street behind Roses.

All agreed that the South Main Street entrance is a necessary project and a high traffic area. Permission would need to be obtained for planting on private property if right-of-way space was not available. Ms. Rock said SCDOT plans to install sidewalks on the Walmart side of South Main Street, beginning possibly next summer, so it would not be a good investment on that side of the right-of-way until that work was complete. Ms. Rock said, given the timetable (Arbor Day in December), that should be an ongoing project and asked the Board for direction on this.

The Board agreed to move forward for December's Arbor Day on the tree replacement on the Square and the trees at the hotel on the Bypass since permission has already been obtained for that project. The Board agreed to begin to get permission to plant on properties along South Main Street before the next meeting.

Ms. Brown also asked that the board investigate an ordinance to require residents that remove a tree to replant two as well as investigate a mitigation ordinance for new construction to plant trees elsewhere to mitigate land clearing that removes larger trees. Ms. Rock said she would provide copies of the current ordinances to members to read prior to the next meeting.

Calendar for 2018

The City of Darlington Tree Board will meet quarterly at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall and as needed to fulfill its duties: Monday, February 26; Monday, May 21; Monday, September 24; and Friday, December 7 (10 a.m. at Arbor Day presentation location). The Board approved the schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.