

Abingdon Tree Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
March 18, 2024
7:30 PM

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Approval of February 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 3) Petitions and Public Hearings
- 4) Reports to the Commission
 - a) 2024 Tree Give Away Update
 - b) 2024 Earth Day Update
 - c) 2024 Arbor Day Update
 - d) Community Forestry Revitalization Program
- 5) Items Not on the Agenda

Abingdon Tree Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2024: Abingdon Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Mohammed Hasham, Stuart Hale, Vasiliy Lakoba, Derek Webb

Commission Members Absent: Greg Meade

Town of Abingdon Staff Present: Kevin Sigmon

Public Present: none

1) Roll Call

The meeting began at 7:30 PM with roll call. As noted above, 4 of the 5 Commission members were present and a quorum was achieved for the meeting.

2) Acceptance of the December 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the 12/18/23 meeting as presented: Mr. Hale. 2nd: Mr. Lakoba. Motion passed with one member abstaining.

3) Petitions and Public Hearings

None presented.

4) Reports to the Commission

- 1) **2024 Tree Give Away Update:** Saturday, April 27, at the Coomes Rec. Center from 9:00 AM-12:00 noon. 200 bags of cypress mulch have been ordered. The utility tree tags have arrived. E&H students will work on condensing the list of multi-family unit addresses. These property owners will receive a 2-week advance notice on registration. The web designer for the Trees VA website is installing a countdown for each of the trees in order to prevent over registering.
- 2) **2024 Earth Day:** Saturday, April 20 at the Fields-Penn House from 9:00 AM -1:00 PM. Sustain Abingdon has asked the Commission to provide information on invasive species. Tree seedlings have been ordered.
- 3) **2024 Arbor Day:** Friday, April 5, 2024 at Abingdon Elementary School at 1:30 PM. Eighty-five 2nd grade students will participate in the event.
- 4) **Ash Tree Removal on VCT/IRA Grant Update:** The VCT Conservancy has received a \$30,000 matching grant for ash tree removal. The Town has already cut down over 200 trees on the trail and is documenting the associated costs.
- 5) **Mulching at Veterans Memorial Park:** The majority of the memorial trees have had their mulch beds extended with the remaining trees to be mulched this winter/spring.

5) Items Not on the Agenda

- 1) Mr. Sigmon informed the Commission the Town is in the process of purchasing Flumigard (active ingredient: flumioxazin) as a pre-emergent treatment for sidewalks. Applications will begin in early spring.

- 2) Mr. Sigmon informed the Commission the ash tree at Abingdon Commons has been cut down and a cost sharing agreement has been reached with the owners of the building.

The next scheduled meeting is set for March 18, 2024 on the 1st floor of Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Community Forest Revitalization Program

The Community Forest Revitalization Program encourages local government and citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustained community forestry projects and programs in underserved and disadvantaged communities. Cities, towns, counties and universities can apply for support to map, plan and manage community forests using Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) resources via the USDA Forest Service. These funds will be used to develop actionable steps to ensure that the benefits of community forests are made available to all, especially those with the greatest need.

To make IRA resources more accessible, DOF is simplifying the application process by working with community partner groups ([Green Infrastructure Center Inc.](#) and the [Community Design Assistance Center](#)) to provide direct technical assistance with a focus on disadvantaged areas. These areas are indicated on the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#).

Who is Eligible

- Communities (planning district commissions, regional commissions)
- Local Government (cities, towns, counties)
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Public Educational Institutions
- Tribal Organizations

Eligible lands include public and tribal lands.

Available Technical Assistance

The following technical assistance provided directly to eligible groups focuses on the stewardship and connection to healthy urban trees and forests. Community-wide plans as assessments are allowed but significant community engagement is required for all eligible activities. Any implementation actions such as tree planting are required to be within CEJST areas.

Select your top two (2) priorities from the following when completing the short survey-style application.

- **Canopy Forest Map**

Uses spatial data to determine tree canopy cover, urban heat distribution and ecosystem services for your community forest.

- **Community Forest Master Plan**

Creates a data-informed plan, sets goals for planting locations and maintenance, and addresses specific goals such as social-equity and long-term resiliency (including adaptations to climate change).

- **Community Ordinance Audit**

Reviews your current forest and tree codes, ordinances, standards and practices. Assistance will also be provided for the creation of new policies and codes to adopt to make your community greener while still accommodating growth.

- **Tree Inventory**

Provides information on the species composition, tree size, health and where you have vacancies for new trees.

- **Urban Wood Services**

Creates a holistic plan and tools for managing your trees after they die, including educational programming and processing solutions.

- **Facilitation and Engagement**

Provides professional support to engage with the public and create community buy-in for your community forests.

- **Conceptual Design for Community Green Spaces**

Works with the community to create conceptual designs for green spaces such as parks, trailheads, greenways, outdoor classrooms and food forests.

- **Community Tree Planting Services**

Provides both technical support on species selection and help sourcing and planting trees in public spaces. We will create a plan to help you plant the right tree in the right place.

Need help with any of the above? Consider applying for technical assistance from DOF.

Applicant's Contribution

Some of your (and your organization's) time will be needed to review data for accuracy, attend several planning workshops, discuss goals, and spend time to implement strategies (strategies will be your decision).

To Apply

Complete a short online survey-style application (estimated time to complete is 15 minutes). **Applications may be submitted from February 20 to April 25, 2024.**

Once you complete the short survey-style online application, you'll be contacted in May or June to discuss your request. Program awardees will be notified in June 2024. While this is a competitive application, priority will be given to those with the most need as indicated on [CEJST](#). We aim to support as many applicants as possible. All work will be completed over one to two years.

[APPLY HERE](#)

More Assistance

If you can't complete the application online, contact the Urban and Community Forestry staff at Community@DOF.Virginia.gov or (434) 220-9024 for assistance.