

date 6/20/12
to Board of Commissioners
from^J Jack Simoneau, Planning Director
re Tree Mitigation Ordinance

The Planning Board has asked staff to get feedback from the Town Board on your interest in amending the Tree Save Requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. Since 2003 the code requires a certain percentage of large trees and tree canopy be saved in new development. When it is not feasible or practical to save such trees, the ordinance allows the developer to “mitigate” the loss of the required trees with the approval of the Planning Board by putting money in a tree fund or planting elsewhere in the community.

The ordinance mitigation value is a **“tree for tree”** ratio; meaning if you remove one required 30 inch specimen Oak tree then only one newly planted 2” tree needs to be installed or paid for in its place. The Planning Board has conveyed their concern to staff that the current mitigation requirement does not reflect the value of removed large trees and does little to encourage applicants to design their developments around existing specimen trees to the greatest extent possible. In researching mitigation techniques used by other communities for the Planning Board, it was found that several communities use a **“caliper to caliper”** ratio; meaning if you remove one required 30 inch specimen then fifteen newly planted 2” trees need to be installed or paid for in its place.

As was stated above, the Planning Board wanted to gauge your interest in pursuing a text amendment that would alter the mitigation requirements prior to bringing this matter to the Town Board. Therefore, if you have any thoughts or concerns or would like a work session with the Planning Board, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you

Planning

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