

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-7

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REVISING SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE, TITLE 2, SECTIONS 2-701 THROUGH 2-703 REGARDING THE CREATION OF A TREE BOARD FOR THE TOWN.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, that Title 2, Sections 2-701 through 2-703 regarding the creation of a Tree Board for the Town are hereby amended to delete said sections in their entirety and substitute in lieu thereof the following:

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TREE BOARD

SECTION

- 2-701. Establishment and Purpose.
- 2-702. Organization and Membership.
- 2-703. Duties and Function

2-701. Establishment and Purpose. One of the greatest assets to the Town is its extensive resource of native trees. There is hereby established a Tree Board to protect this resource as a significant part of the natural beauty of the Town through tree advocacy and education.

2-702. Organization and Membership.

A. The Signal Mountain Tree Board shall consist of seven (7) members, who shall be residents of the Town and/or residents of Hamilton County. Three members of the Tree Board shall have some educational and/or professional experience concerning landscaping and/or trees, which may include professional training such as a landscape architect, arborist, forester, master gardener or similar experience. These three members may be residents of Hamilton County and/or the Town of Signal Mountain. Four members of the Tree Board shall be citizens, residents, and homeowners in the Town. A certified arborist will serve as a consultant and ad hoc member.

B. Members shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council for terms of three (3) years each which will be staggered. At the beginning of each calendar year, the Board will elect a chairman to preside over meetings, a vice chairman to serve in the chairman's

absence, and a secretary. The date and time of regular meetings shall be decided by a majority vote of the Board. At least four (4) members shall be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum and all meetings shall be publicly noticed and comply with the provisions of T.C.A. §§ 8-44-101 et. seq.

2-703. Duties and Functions. The Tree Board shall meet monthly or on call by its chairman to provide advice and recommendations to the Town Council for the adoption of programs and/or regulations considered by the Town Council for the protection of trees and shall be responsible for the following:

A. Advisory Responsibilities.

1. Provide education, advice and recommendation about trees to the Town Council and the general public.
2. Provide any builder, contractor or developer with recommendations on tree protection and maintenance prior to the issuance of any land disturbing or building permit by the building official.

B. Tree Planting Activities in the Town:

1. Celebrate Arbor Day in coordination with elementary schools.
2. Prepare plans for tree planting activities.
3. Arrange for donations of trees or funding for tree planting projects.
4. Select species for various planning projects.
5. Coordinate with other groups that might plant trees.

C. Expertise Relating to Municipal Trees:

1. Provide advice and assistance in tree pruning.
2. Provide safety inspections of trees in the Town.
3. Collect data on trees within the Town and/or arrange for a tree inventory.
4. Advise municipal departments on tree problems and tree removal needs.

D. Educational Outreach:

1. Arrange for publicity about the importance of trees and tree activities.
2. Provide information on Best Management Practices to maintain preserve healthy trees to the general public, builders, developers, local garden clubs, scout troops, hiking clubs, etc.
3. Operate a local awards program to recognize individuals and groups for their efforts in conservation and planting of trees.

E. Honor Tree Program:

1. Provide a means for individuals or groups to donate trees to honor special people, commemorate important events, and create living memorials for loved ones.
2. For a tax-deductible donation the Tree Board shall plant an Honor Tree and install a special marker inscribed with the names of the honoree, the donor, the tree species and the date of planting.
3. The Tree Board shall recommend a species and an appropriate planting site on Town property after review and recommendation by the Town Manager or his/her designee.
4. The Town Manager shall have final approval of the plaque and wording, except in cases of disagreement where the Town Council as the final authority may hear an appeal.
5. The successful growth of donated trees cannot be guaranteed. The Town reserves the right not to replace donated trees that are removed, damaged or diseased.
6. The Town will not be responsible for vandalism, repair or replacement of plaques. If the plaque presents an eyesore or public liability the Town, at its discretion, may remove it. The donor will be contacted or informed of the action, if taken.

F. Invasive Species Removal Program.

1. Provide public education on the importance of controlling non-native invasive species such as privet, honeysuckle vines and shrubs, oriental bittersweet, kudzu, English ivy, princess trees, etc.
2. Work with Board members, garden clubs, other local groups and volunteers to remove and eradicate non-native invasive species from municipal property.
3. Seek donations of tools, chemicals and funds to support the program.

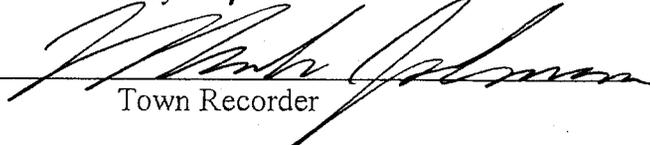
SECTION 2. That this Ordinance shall become effective immediately from and after its passage as provided by law.

Passed First Reading 4-13, 2009

Passed Second Reading: 5-11, 2009



Mayor



Town Recorder