



AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

PREPARED BY: Gloria Abbotts, Senior Planner

DEPARTMENT: Planning

MEETING: Town Council – 9 NOV 2021

SUBJECT: **Text Amendment:** Consider amending Ch 40 Art VI Sec. 40-175, Sec. 40-176, and Sec. 40-179 to update the ordinance to provide protections for trees on single-family and two-family lots.
Applicant: Town of Carolina Beach

BACKGROUND:

Town Council has requested that staff and Planning and Zoning look at options for tree protection and preservation. Past discussions of a tree preservation ordinance led to a discussion to protect native trees and focus on stormwater. Planning and Zoning recommended an ordinance that would require new construction and redevelopment to submit a list of trees within the setback area except for driveways before any land disturbance takes place. Trees to be kept would be marked on site and any heritage trees removed must be replaced with a 2.5” caliper tree. Per guidance provided by Council at the September Workshop, staff simplified the ordinance recommended by Planning and Zoning. Staff also received input from the Beautification Committee on the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance will require single-family and two-family lots to plant or preserve a minimum of one tree per 25 linear feet of frontage with both a minimum of six feet tall and a minimum of two inches in caliper. Required trees shall be planted before the Certificate of Occupancy is issued. The intent of the ordinance is to encourage residents to protect and replace trees from the Town’s information guide and plant selection list pre and post construction.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider the amendment and make a motion for recommendation.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Approval - whereas in accordance with the provisions of the NCGS, the Commission does hereby find and determine that the adoption of the following ordinance amendment to Chapter 40 Art VI Sec. 40-175, Sec. 40-176, and Sec. 40-179 to update the ordinance to provide protections for trees on single-family and two-family lots is consistent with the goals and objectives of the adopted Land Use Plan and other long-range plans

Or - A statement approving the proposed amendment and declaring that this also amends the plan, along with an explanation of the change in conditions to meet the development needs of the community that were taken into account in the zoning amendment.

Denial - based on inconsistencies with the goals and objectives of the adopted Land Use Plan and/or other long-range planning documents.