



AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

PREPARED BY: Gloria Abbotts

DEPARTMENT: Planning

MEETING: Planning and Zoning – 9 SEP 2021

SUBJECT: Consider amending Ch 40 Art VI Sec. 40-175, Sec. 40-177, to update the ordinance to provide protections for heritage trees. 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 heritage trees and focus on stormwater. The intent of the ordinance is to encourage residents to protect and replace trees pre and post construction. Staff has put together three options for Planning and Zoning's consideration and guidance. Option 1 would require a tree permit for any removal of trees within the town along with the requirement of a tree survey to identify trees to be protected and replaced outside of the building footprint. Option 2 would require new construction and any expansions to the building footprint to provide a list of all trees on site and replace any heritage trees removed. Option 3 allows the incentive of a flexible setback (up to 25%) to preserve a tree along with the option for a reduced stormwater fee by counting any trees preserved as impervious surface credit.

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 Article XII Section 40-354 Review Criteria, to update standards related to Major and Minor PUD applications 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.