

**City of Oxford Tree Board  
Special Meeting  
Monday, March 16th, 2026**

**Opening**

Be it known that the City of Oxford Tree Board held a special meeting on Monday, March 16th, 2026, at 1:00 P.M. in the City Hall Courtroom, with phone/video conference available. The following were present:

**Tree Board:**

Cowan Hunter, Chairman

Ed Croom

Mary Hartwell Howorth

Josh White via Microsoft Teams

**Other:**

Ben Requet, Director of Planning, City of Oxford, MS

James Hirsch, Development Services – Planning, City of Oxford, MS

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects, City of Oxford, MS

Nick Matthews, Director, Landscape Services, City of Oxford, MS

Allison Ferris, Development Services - Engineering Department, City of Oxford, MS

Hannah Carwyle, Development Services, City of Oxford, MS

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order.

## **Business**

*Consider Proposals to Recommend to the City of Oxford Board of Aldermen Regarding a New Tree Inventory, Recovery Efforts After Winter Storm Fern, and Replanting Efforts.*

The Tree Board met to discuss various proposals from Eocene Environmental Group, Davey Resource Group, and Green Groves regarding a new tree inventory, recovery efforts, and replanting goals.

Commissioner Cowan Hunter expressed his views regarding the proposals. Commissioner Hunter expressed his view on the importance of tree risk assessment and voiced his opinions on the proposals from Eocene Environmental Group and Green Groves, as well as his ideas for a comprehensive tree inventory. Commissioner Hunter recommended that Matt Nielson of Green Groves conduct a tree inventory and risk assessment. Commissioner Hunter discussed his opinion on wanting the Eocene Environmental Group to conduct a canopy study after the tree inventory and risk assessment are conducted. There was discussion regarding the proposals. There was also a discussion on the tree mitigation process as well as the importance of plant diversity.

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects, indicated he agreed with Commission Hunter's opinion and discussed his opinions regarding the proposals and recommendations to the Board of Aldermen. Mark also discussed the importance of these groups in helping to identify a replanting plan in light of Winter Storm Fern for the coming Fall and the timeline, i.e., inventory being completed by the end of June. There was discussion. Mark proposed utilizing a combination of Green Groves and the Eocene Environmental Group to complete the proposed tasks. Commissioner Hunter also discussed his opinion of utilizing the Tree Escrow Fund as needed.

There was a discussion from Nick Matthews, Director of Landscape Services, and Ben Requet, Director of Planning, regarding the tree assessment of damage from Winter Storm Fern. Nick agreed with the importance of conducting a risk assessment. There was further discussion.

Mark summarized the goal of having Green Groves and the Eocene Environmental Group both assist and make that recommendation to the City of Oxford Board of Aldermen.

## **Move to Adjourn**

Commissioner Hunter motioned to adjourn the meeting.