A Note from the McClellanville Tree Committee

Hello McClellanville! We are the Town's Tree Committee, and our mission is the protection and enhancement of the tree resources of McClellanville. If you have not yet had the opportunity to review Article VI: Tree Conservation of the Zoning and Land Development Ordinance we encourage you to do so now at https://www.mcclellanvillesc.org/town-government/zoning-ordinance. Familiarizing yourself with this important document will not only ensure your property remains in compliance with Town rules and regulations but will also give you a broader understanding of the importance the Town of McClellanville places on maintaining our beautiful tree canopy for generations to come. We ask that you also provide any company hired to clear or construct on your lot with both the ordinance and the following guidance.

In addition to the requirements of the ordinance we urge you to consider the following suggestions meant to sustain the health, longevity, and aesthetic appeal of our Town:

· The requirements laid out in the ordinance are only the minimum requirements regarding tree size and number. We encourage you to also consider the next generation of trees and not limit conservation on your lot to these minimums.

· We encourage you to consider avoiding clear-cut space (i.e. leaving the required trees only along the perimeter) when preparing a property for construction. Trees thoughtfully dispersed throughout a property provide cost-saving shade, valuable drainage and water absorption after a significant rain event, and priceless aesthetic value to your property.

· The more trees conserved on a property, the more shelter and food sources are left available to wildlife. This is also an important reason to consider variety in tree species. For example, Pines provide high shade and will give you a wider range of choice in other landscape plants for which constant direct sun is too intense. Pines also provide potential roosting for important large bird species such as our Bald Eagles and Ospreys.

We are so blessed to have such a vibrant, natural tree canopy in McClellanville. We hope you will carefully consider the positive environmental and aesthetic implications of our suggestions in this letter. If you have any questions about our tree conservation goals, please do not hesitate to reach out to Town Hall.