# Steering Committee Meeting Summary

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| Date: | April 22, 2021 | |
| Time: | 4:00 – 6:00pm | |
| Location: | Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams | |
| Attendees: | Steering Committee and Council Members   * Kathy Behringer * Jon Blasco * Dean Fox * Demian Dellinger * Time Holton * Stacy Griffin * Doug Griner * Joseph Stallings * Jaclyn Stannard | Town staff   * Jeff Triezenberg * Leah Harrison * Brian Godfrey * Chris Johnson * Terri Jones * David Bamford * John Hodges   Consultant   * Jay McLeod * Caroline Richardson * Allison Evans |
| Materials: | * PowerPoint Presentation | |

## Welcome and Introductions

The project team reviewed the project schedule and progress is on time. There will be several updated articles for the Steering Committee to review in the new few months.

## Survey Summary

The review of the public results indicated that the public prefers smaller-scale building options in most zoning districts. They also prefer street trees between the sidewalk and the right-of-way, stormwater ponds that are integrated with landscaping, and smaller clusters of mailbox units with landscaping. When asked to rank their priorities for the built environment, the top priority was greenways, sidewalks, and pedestrian connectivity, followed by tree preservation and landscaping buffers.

## Project progress review

Lighting

Lighting standards have been updated to reflect current trends and desires. The updated code introduces standards for accent lighting, sports and recreation lighting, introduces requirements to limit night sky light pollution, and creates limits for lighting at property lines while encouraging lighting in key safety locations, such as parking lots.

The current section does not change street lighting standards. Those are the purview of NCDOT and the Town Engineering Dept.

The Steering Committee discussed how to best ensure street lighting that reflect Garner’s character. Staff is not sure that the Town can require a specific style of pole or fixture for new development due to cost implications.

Landscaping

New updates include accommodations to tie tree save standards to parking requirements, which will reduce conflicts in parked areas.

Discussion took place regarding depth of buffers and canopy preservation concerns and how these areas overlap. Ensuring preservation of the trees in the perimeter is usually necessary to meet the tree canopy preservation requirements.

The committee discussed standalone saved trees versus groups of trees. How can the code incorporate requirements for a certain stand size to be saved? This extends to interior site landscaping – how can effective clumps of plants be encouraged? One option may be to include basal and stand size requirements in the tree preservation standards.

Steering Committee indicated a preference for large road-adjacent perimeter buffers.

## Discussion and Next Steps

Finally, screening requirements were considered. The discussion indicated a preference among those present to screen as many unsightly elements as possible. The project team will review how screening, particularly dumpster screening, is being handled by the code and make any changes necessary.

The project team will make the discussed edits to the chapter and will deliver additional chapters next month.

Check the project webpage often for updates and upcoming events:

<https://www.garnernc.gov/departments/planning/garner-forward/udo-re-write-project>