



**The Coppel Historical Society
P. O. Box 1871
Coppel, TX 75019**

CoppelHistoricalSociety.org

January 16, 2014

Mr. Clay Phillips, City Manager
City of Coppel
P. O. Box 9478
Coppel, TX 75019

Dear Clay,

We are following up on a conversation that Pat Quinlan and Jean Murph had with you regarding looking at the City's tree ordinance. You had suggested that we write a letter to you which you would forward to the City Council. One of our members, Pat Lambert, served on the first tree ordinance committee and has advised us about its provisions. This ordinance originally was intended to preserve and protect trees that would ordinarily be lost to development and those that would not survive due to improper treatment during construction. It applies to all real property and development, construction, and redevelopment within the City.

As land available for residential housing has been in short supply, the purpose of the ordinance has been somewhat subverted. A prime example would be the Old Town Main Street Phase 2 development in which the developer chose to pay about \$13,000 in mitigation fees and proceeded to clear cut the entire property. The tree replacement fee has become a part of doing business in this instance.

While the current ordinance requires a tree survey for certain development requests, as well as replacement of trees of a certain size or a comparable fee, it does not address preservation of certain trees. In the past few years, the Historical Society has identified certain old trees that have witnessed historical events in Coppel. We have also identified certain trees that could qualify as Champion or Large trees, some of them being over 300 years old. The City's ordinance requires that the tree survey be performed by a qualified person. If this person is not familiar with the history of Coppel the significance of a particular specimen might not be evident to them. Section 34-2-4 (F) defines a Historic Tree as one that has been designated by the City Council as a tree of notable historical interest. The trees identified by the Historical Society as witness trees should qualify for consideration of this designation. Although it would not be feasible to preserve all these trees, perhaps some of the more significant specimens could be made immune to destruction.

We would like to ask that the tree ordinance be revisited in order to suggest possible historic tree preservation provisions and other changes that will strengthen and better enforce it.

We look forward to hearing from you about this.

Sincerely,

Don Carter,
President