



TOWN OF ORIENTAL

**RESOLUTION 2026-01 APPROVING A QUALIFIED SOURCE FOR OBTAINING
THE ETHICS TRAINING REQUIRED BY N.C. GEN. STAT. § 160A-87**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted North Carolina General Statute § 160A-87 requiring that all members of this Board receive a minimum of two (2) clock hours of ethics education within twelve (12) months after initial election or appointment and again within 12 months after each subsequent election or appointment to the office;

WHEREAS, said ethics education may be provided by a qualified source other than those expressly described in North Carolina General Statute § 160A-87 at the discretion of this Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 160A-87(c); and

WHEREAS, Sumrell Sugg, P.A. is a qualified source of such ethics education due to the fact that its attorneys have extensive experience and knowledge of the laws and principles that govern conflicts of interest and ethical standards of conduct at the local government level.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that Sumrell Sugg, P.A. is approved as a qualified source of the mandated ethics education described in North Carolina General Statute § 160A-87 for the members of this Board, as necessary.

This Resolution is effective upon its adoption this 29th day of January, 2026.

TOWN OF ORIENTAL

Mayor Sally Belangia

ATTEST:

Diane H. Miller, Clerk

Oriental Water Advisory Board

Friday, November 21, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Nick Wilhelm (phone), Rich Guimond, Daniel Early, Steve Drew, Butch Rasmussen, Commissioner Bonnie Crosser and Allen Price, Manager Miller, Newly Elected Commissioners: Louis Ostendorff and Don McGuire.

1. Water Plant Rehabilitation Project.

TRC, Nick Wilhelm, provided an update to the design status: 60 Days behind schedule. Waiting on response from EFI on the integrated prefab building solution. On hold, until receipt of response from EFI for cost benefit analysis to compare a remodel solution to a prefab building and components solution. The remodel solution will address the replacement of components inside the current structure; with the possible relocate of the brine tank. The prefab solution will provide for a new building with the components installed at the factory, allowing for a seamless transition. There is additional land surrounding the plant to allow for this type of solution.

- TRC requested copies of recent filter component testing elements and PFAS test.

2. Booster Station. Similar to the Water Plant, TRC, Nick Wihlem, on hold waiting for response from EFI on the integrated prefab building solution. Committee requested a priority for the Booster Station regarding the estimated solution with EFI.

- Sewer connection not required.
- Team schedule to tour the Booster Station facility in Beaufort County – first week of December.

3. Valve Replacement. Design submitted to DWI, DEQ, and NCDOT.

- 1/8/2026 Bids are due.
- TRC verifying all permits have been obtained. Concern regarding PDWS – water supply permit.
- Manager Miller requested copy of Bid package for Town Hall.

4. Decision for TRC to revise RFF project components to equal direct funding amount of \$5.417 million. Adding to the RFF replacement of pipes, paving, and permits, etc.

Copper Issue.

- November 2025 testing 3.0 – limit is 1.85.
- Outstanding resolution regarding DEQ approval of Oriental's expired Water Permit. Mr. Baily continues his efforts to bring a resolve to this outstanding issue and resolution with the NOV's. Effort is focused on including the diffuser and increasing the copper testing limit range.

Prepared by: Commissioner Bonnie Crosser

12/11/2025 HWAC Meeting Minutes

By: Breena Litzenberger

Attendees: Jim Blackerby, Pat Stockwell, Dan Allen, Emily Fritz, Jim Kellenberger Liaison Don McGuire, Liaison Paul Jordan

Motion to open the meeting by Jim Blackerby second Dan Allen, unanimously voted at 4:03PM

Meeting started at

1. Approval of November minutes: Pat moves to approve the minutes, Dan seconds.
Unanimous approval.
2. Facilities Report: The staff has been doing a fantastic job fulfilling work orders. There are two individuals that are willing to do facility checks but do not want to be on the committee. They will have to sign a waiver and the committee needs to approve them. Don will get Brad's email and ask him for a good time to meet with the committee so we can approve him.
 - a. Staff shut off the water at the fishing pier and shut off the pump out due to low temperatures.
 - b. Officer Bill needs to empty the box so we can see usage. We would like to have additional keys made so committee members can check the box, if possible
 - c. PW need to empty the trash cans before the weekend because spirit of Christmas will be at the net house
 - d. John Bond also has full cans because they were moved to the other side of the road.
 - e. The fishing pier also has a full can.
 - f. There are two boats at anchor in the harbor right now that may be abandoned, so if it breaks free be aware it may not have an owner. (Boat does not have a mast)
Brought to attention by John Deaton.
3. Town Manager's Report: Manager is out of Town
4. Whittaker Creek Channel Update: They were finally able to get a signature from Mr. Sprat to use 40 'of his land. Dan checks daily to make sure his land is okay. We are running the pipe across his lot to get to the spoil site. They have been dredging for the last couple of weeks and they are $\frac{2}{3}$ complete. They are making 150 feet a day at this point because they are at the hard packed shoal. It should be 8-9 more days of dredging. Overall things are going well. $\frac{1}{3}$ of pond one is filled. They are 30 'SE of the old channel, moving the direction a couple of degrees from the old channel, towards the entrance of the channel. This saves 4,500 cubic yards of material in dredging the channel. Coast guards picked up marker 3 so it's out of the way for dredging, they did not move marker 4, hopefully they'll move it to a better spot when dredging is complete.
5. Dinghy Dock Bulkhead and deck rebuild: We've had one meeting with contractors (Bobby Cahoon Group). Cahoon did not turn in a bid, they did not want to turn in a bid until the second cycle. The second contractor meeting is coming up. The expectation of cost will be about \$20,000.

6. Chapter E final discussion: Thanks Jim for your perseverance! It will be handed off to the board of commissioners. Jim K. Makes a motion to approve Chapter E as submitted to Jim Blackerby seconded by Dan Allen. He amends his motion to revise Article 3, Section 2: remove the hull length minimum of at least 22 feet and instead allow all boats to overnight dock that has crew accommodations. Unanimously passed.

- a. Additionally, we will have a list of considerations for Diane and the Town attorney to look into with the Chapter E submission.

7. John Bond Beach: Pat is still working with Diane to get the scope of the project. Emily has jumped in with Pat on this project. Emily and Pat will put together a list of fundamental requirements that address the ongoing issues the beach and associated drainage system encounter. They will bring it to Diane's for review after the document is circulated and reviewed by the committee.

Additional:

- a. Polar plunge was approved at the town board meeting - access was brought up for wheelchairs. We have it on the list for still "open"

The woman who brought it up was invited to talk to HWAC

- b. We could look at creating parking in the space where the gully was dug out in between the bulkheads if we extend the pipes that go under the road farther out and cover them.

- c. Other alternatives will be looked at.

8. Ideas for Promoting Town waterfront: Spirit of Christmas highlights the town dock 2 area. Saturday afternoon 3-5PM.

- a. We need to promote town facilities to town residents. A lot of people don't know we have bathrooms in the net house or the benches near the river

- b. Breena will schedule an interview with Pat Stockwell to go over town facilities for residents on the Oriental Cruiser's Net Podcast

9. Commissioner Comments: No comments at this time

10. Motion to adjourn at 5:22 by Jim K, seconded Pat Stockwell unanimously adjourned.

HWAC Meeting Minutes 1-8-2026

By: Breena Litzenberger

Attendees: Jim Blackerby, Pat Stockwell, Dan Allen, Jim Kellenberger, Breena Litzenberger, Emily Fritz, Bobby Brewer, Commissioner Paul Jordan, Commissioner Don McGuire, Commissioner Lou Ostendorf

Meeting brought to order at 4:01 by Jim Blackerby

- 1.) Dan Allen makes a motion to approve the minutes, Jim K. Seconds and it passes unanimously
- 2.) Facilities Report:
 - a.) The Net House had a few bulbs out, but it was remedied.
 - b.) Jim K asks that when people do their facilities check, if they could do one in the evening, then they can see a different side of the facilities
 - c.) The bench closest to the Roe's old house has a broken arm rest - We will need to let the town know.
 - d.) The broom and dustpan walked off so Jim B. Donated one
 - e.) The Christmas decorations went a long way, especially in the Mayor and Commissioners hot chocolate night.
- 3.) Dinghy Dock: We got one bid from Bobby Cahoon. It came in over budget from what his initial estimate was. Originally it was \$20,000 and the bid he submitted was \$33,000 and it would go up if he added rocks. We need to decide if we want to go back out to bid or if we award him the project. Dan has some suggestions to diminish the scope of the project that may be possible. Since the Manager Miller was not present, discussions were limited on this topic.
- 4.) John Bond Beach Update: Emily gives an update. Pat and Emily worked on a scoping meeting request to see what can be done for the beach. Attachments were emailed to members. Committee members will look at the information Emily and Pat sent and give their feedback. Once feedback has been sent, Emily and Pat will take it to Manager Miller to review and then they will request the meeting. At the meeting engineers will present ideas and we will be able to ask questions in order to get a game plan for the project.

Emily also proposed a Sound Rivers water quality testing project for the John Bond Beach area: The committee has the opportunity to work with Sound Rivers which would include taking water samples at Miss Faye's creek (one of the Town's drainage systems). When Sound Rivers took samples previously there was E.coli found. Emily indicated that when the NCDEQ tests (during the warmer swimming months) they do it out board of the beach or not that close and samples may be diluted.

 - a.) Sound Rivers would do three rounds of testing. If there is a bigger water quality issue, it may help us with getting grants that might address the E.coli issue and drainage.
 - i.) Testing would be \$1,000 for the DNA testing (for source location).

- ii.) Jim K makes a motion to recommend the board to accept water quality testing and costs associated with it for up to \$1,000, Breena seconds. Unanimously passed.
- 5.) A second meeting has been scheduled for January 27, 2026 at 4PM in the small conference room, contingent upon Manager Miller's participation.
- 6.) Sound Rivers Training: Emily will email us all scheduling options for the training for using the dashboard and how to do it. It should take under an hour. Jim K makes a motion to accept training, Dan seconds and it passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned by Jim B, seconded by Jim K at 5:04.

The HWAC backup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the January 27, 2026 at 4PM
The next regular HWAC meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026 at 4PM



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

December 02, 2025

DURATION

09:07 AM through 10:13 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Joan Allen, Pat Allen, Phil Borders, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinae (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Bob Miller (em.), Chris Moffat (com.elct.), Al Price (com.), Tom Soderholm, Madeline Sutter (em.) Missy Tenhet

Commissioner Liaison Change of Guard: John acknowledged Allen Price, our outgoing commissioner liaison, for his support over the years. Chris Moffat and Lou Ostendorf will be our new commissioner liaisons upon their swearing in on December 9th. Thank you, Allen; and welcome Chris and Lou.

Duke Line Clearing: John issued a press release asking TownDock.net to ask residents to alert town hall if they see debris left behind by the Duke Energy line clearing crews. While Duke still has some pruning work to do in town, only one resident identified residual debris issues.

Tree Removals:

At the November 18, 2025, town board meeting, the Tree Board's budget amendment for extraordinary tree removals, was approved. While the amendment will likely not cover *all* of the trees on the high-risk list, it will cover the highest priority trees. Treewise will begin some of these removals shortly.

Pat reported that there is continuing discussion in the community about whether to expand the pickleball courts in Lupton Park, or build new ones at the Recreation Park. If the Lupton Park courts are to be expanded, several trees will need to be removed. John suggested that some of the bays and elms in the park are susceptible to diseases and may need to be removed eventually anyway, but that no expansion would be possible on the west side of the current courts. Stephanie suggested that, before we discuss removing *any* trees, the Parks & Recreation Board needs to demonstrate that the expanded courts will actually be used; apparently, the existing courts are not fully utilized. There are plenty of private courts that could be rented for tournaments. Pat will continue to monitor developments.

John suggested that the dogwoods at 401 Broad, Mariposa, need to go. After discussion, the Board agreed that the space is not conducive to *any* trees. John will notify the Planning Board of our recommendation as this may impact the business' compliance with the parking landscape ordinance.

Planting:

309 High Street has requested 2 crepe myrtle trees. The Board agreed that this may be a good location for the annual Arbor Day tree planting in April. John will ask the owners for a color preference.

1213 Lupton Road has reached out to the Board to start discussions about possible tree planting. Missy agreed to talk to the owners to narrow down a species selection.

Madeline has offered to provide the town with a 'copse' of trees (a diverse grove of relatively closely planted trees and/or shrubs) somewhere in town. She has asked the Board to consider suitable locations for this copse. Some thoughts include: in the Recreation Park next to the children's playground equipment area, or at the corner of Broad and Silverbrook where the anniversary tree was planted this year. Additional ideas are welcome. Madeline also recommended that we ask Harborside Garden Center for a discount for the trees we buy there. John suggested that we probably pay retail because we buy so few trees at a time.

Janet sifted through the NC Urban Forestry Department's list of recommended trees to compile a list of recommended street trees for the Board's use. Dr. Bob reviewed and refined the list based on his extensive experience. Missy suggested that we ask Diane to include this list in whatever packets she gives out with new permits. John added that the ISA offers several pamphlets on trees and construction that could also be added to the packet. Janet will put the recommended tree list together in a hand-out format for that use.

Janet mentioned that there is a statewide program that offers replacement trees to residents who provide proof that they have removed their Bradford pear trees. Bradford pears have become an invasive species with a bounty on their heads! Bob offered these words of wisdom, "Bradford Pears live fast, love hard, and die young!"

Pruning Activities:

John has been attending numerous arborist training classes. His recent attendance at the International Society of Arborist (ISA) symposium in Charlotte, was particularly eye-opening. One thing he learned was that, when we remove secondary branches, we need to also do heading cuts on the primary branch to prevent sending energy to lateral growth. This is especially important when training young trees. Next week John attends an arborist certification class. He has to audit these classes because the organizations only recognize commercial experience, not municipal experience.

While pruning construction-damaged trees on Windward, John noticed that all of the properties along that stretch have standing water in deep, wide ditches. The combination of a high-water table, wide ditches, and no outlet for the water, creates an even worse environment for the badly stressed trees. Digging ditches wider and deeper does not fix the drainage problems. The ditches can't be mowed, so crews use dangerous herbicides to control vegetation; the constant digging near the tree roots damages them; then the standing water drowns them. This is happening all over town.

Other special pruning requests outside of area 1A include:

- Midyette Street toward the boat ramp
- More work is needed in the Recreation/Dog Park;
- The cypresses at the corner of Neuse Street & Factory need attention;
- 502 South Ave: Neuse Street Extension live oaks need crown lifting and training in this high-traffic area;
- Overhead clearance along Freemason is continuing, especially near Third in front of the Methodist Church, and the other side of Church Street;
- Corner of Gilgo and Starboard Circle limbs overhanging the ROW;
- 503 Ragan: owner requested lower limbs of live oaks pruned up for driveway clearance;

- 501 Ragan: owner requested crown lifting of live oaks;
- The crepes around Brantley's need thinning and clearance pruning;
- Three young oaks at Vandemere and First need training;
- 6000 Dolphin Road, there are oak branches that are being damaged by trucks. The trees are not on town property, but they hang over the town ROW into the street. The owners have requested that we not raise the crowns of those trees until February for the health of the trees.

Ordinance Amendments: In the process of updating the Chapter M Ordinance, Janet found a few more adjustments needed to align the new ordinance with subordinating regulations and old by-laws. One item included increasing the number of members required to constitute a quorum to five. Janet will send the updated amendment request to Diane for inclusion in the Commissioners' December 9th agenda.

Tom asked if the Tree Board is covered by insurance or other indemnity, and if we should mention it in the ordinance (like a disclaimer). Chris offered to ask Diane about that.

John suggested that, in the new year, the Tree Board should consider doing more with regular bulletins to residents, offering pruning workshops, and perhaps planning some sort of tree give-away program through the Arbor Day Foundation.

Missy suggested the Board plan a field trip to New Bern to tour with their tree board to see how they manage their street trees. Although they are better funded and have more members, we could learn something we could apply here.

Tree Inventory Project: Janet and Cathy continue to make some progress on the inventory. More help is needed. We're still only about 15% complete to date. This inventory is critical to support longer term budget planning.

TreeCityUSA: John reported that the locations for the new signs have been cleared by 811, and the signs are ready for members to install them.

John reported that he has completed and submitted the application for next year's TreeCityUSA certification. We won't get a determination until early next year.

In conjunction with next year's Arbor Day celebration, Pat suggested that the Board make a pitch for citizens to sponsor tree plantings or advertise that we accept donations to support Tree Board activities. Janet offered to draft some sort of press release.

Miscellaneous Surveillance:

- All around town, there is significant damage to town trees from herbicides – especially RoundUp. Damage from herbicides can take several years to show up in the health of a tree. It takes many years for a new tree to grow to replace the mature trees in town. There are alternatives to using herbicides for controlling weeds under trees. Please ask any Tree Board member, any Master Gardener, or the NC State Extension Office in Bayboro for better options.
- 1202 Broad Street Ext, Ice Machine: The dogwood trees along the front of the property are dying. Dogwood trees are understory trees – they do not thrive in full sun conditions; especially in the blistering heat this year. They are also susceptible to anthracnose. These will need to be replaced. The oaks that were planted at the back of the property were planted too close together. Some, or all, are not likely to survive, and need to be monitored.

- Bob Miller identified a crepe myrtle at 305 Vandemere that appears to be infested by crepe myrtle bark scale. This small tree may need to be replaced to avoid spreading the insect, rather than trying to treat the infestation. Dormant neem oil in fall or early spring can help some mild infestations. Systemic drench containing imidacloprid can work well, but also can impact pollinators. Treat with systemic drench, and monitor for replacement.
- Bob alerted the team that laurel wilt disease is in the area. While this disease afflicts all laurel species, the laurels at Lupton Park are notably susceptible. Laurel wilt disease is spread by the ambrosia beetle. There is currently no effective treatment. If this disease spreads, the Lupton Park laurels may eventually need to be removed and replaced with resistant species. Keep a watchful eye.
- One of the Live Oak trees on South Ave has been losing bark, with significant die-back of limbs on one side of the tree. Janet submitted photos and description to the NC State Extension agent, Daniel Simpson, for analysis. Daniel concluded that the tree is infested with slime flux and rot. This is a bacterial disease – no treatment or cure. Dr Bob explained that the bacteria do not directly kill the tree, but can clog the transportation pathways of nutrients, water and air to the outer branches. If/when the tree is removed, it must not be replaced. The bacteria can live in the ground, infecting anything else you plant there.

NEXT MEETING

Because of the Holiday, the next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, January 06, 2025, at 09:00 AM** in the town hall main conference room. Pruning crews meet at the Town Hall most Tuesdays throughout the year. Volunteers are always welcome to join us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Parks and Recreation Fall Festival Meeting Notes

December 2, 2025

Meeting began at 3:00 PM

In attendance:

Vicki Rasmussen

Kimberly Langson

Eileen Price

Barb Miller

Alice Flannigan

Cookie Exchange- we have cookie boxes that were donated and Marsha is ordering larger ones.

Borrowing a coffee pot for cocoa

We have a able for cocoa and two for cookie exchange

Bring a dozen- take a box to get another dozen

Set up @ 4:00 pm Thursday, 11th. Rain or shine

Luminary involvement starting on the 9th at 12:00 @ 4:00

Ragan Road

Schedule is online

We need new mulch @ Lupton Park. Barb will email Diane Miller in January to advise on when to have it delivered and get an estimate

Take decorations down in Lupton Park on January 5th

If we personally buy something to get reimbursed, we pay the tax. Best to go through town, but sometimes it's not practical.

Friday, December 5th @ 3:00, town party bring an unwrapped gift

The tree where we put the decorations was planted on 2002 by Lori Wagoner in memory of her mother, Norma Jeanne Dreas. It's the "Mother Tree". We are going to replace the original plaque, perhaps a bench- plan to put it up on Mother's Day.

Residents Mark and Renee have asked if town can put up No Parking signs on the park side (Mildred) from the porta potty to the corner. Reason being it blocks them in and it's a hazard for kids getting in and out of cars. Diane will address the No Parking sign to the board in January.

Next month we'll pick a date for Fall Festival 2026

We have \$16,000.

We'll have a quarterly maintenance schedule- discuss in January

Adjourn @ 3:50.

Park and Recreation Committee Meeting Notes

January 6, 2026

Meeting began 3 pm

Attendance:

Vicki Rasmussen

Barbara Miller

Kim Langson

Alice Flannigan

Commissioner Jordan

Commissioner McGuire

6 residents attended and public comments were presented

Public comments:

- 1) Dog waste not being cleaned up at Dog Park. A reminder was posted on Facebook.**
- 2) Ad for New Bern Magazine concerning Chinese New Year. Pertinent information was sent to Tourism Board.**
- 3) Pamlico Pickleball Association's proposal for Lupton Mini Park.**
- 4) One resident was interested in Committee**

functions.

- 5) One resident was interested in becoming part of our Committee.**

Committee Agenda:

- 1) Lengthy discussion over pickleball expansion at Lupton Mini Park. Committee unanimously opposing the expansion there, unanimously in favor of expansion at Recreation Park.**
- 2) Memorial Plaque for tree at Lupton is here, just needs to be installed.**
- 3) Barbara to email Manager Miller about mulch for Lupton.**
- 4) Barbara to email Tourism Board about how we can assist in Cycle NC 2026.**
- 5) Fall Festival date TBD, possible date Oct 17 or Nov 7.**
- 6) Butch Rasmussen submitted application to become part of our Committee. Request was forwarded to Manager Miller.**
- 7) Work day scheduled for Jan 13, 2026 at Rec Park.**

Meeting adjourned 4:10