

Parks and Recreation Meeting Notes
September 1, 2026

Meeting began at 3:01

Attendance:

Alice Flannigan
Barbara Miller
Kimberly Langson
Commissioner Jordan
Commissioner McGuire

Inventory completed on all parks: Copies to Commissioner Jordan and Commissioner McGuire as well as Manager Miller

- broken push broom removed from Lupton, not purchased by us, may replace if missed
- Work order to be placed to remove all grill at Lupton. Grill was donated, will replace if missed
- Badminton/volleyball equipment removed from Rec Park to Lupton

Revisit charter next month. It will be a lengthy discussion, please come prepared

- create new mission statement
- discussed new recruits
- presented new ideas for small events related to learning about nature

-allocate money for proper equipment or hire professionals

Cancelled social for Sept 11, 2026

Meeting adjourned 4:10

Parks and Recreation Meeting

10/6/2026

3:00 PM

Attendance:

Alice Flannigan

Barbara Miller

Eileen Price

Steve Price

Kim Langson

Commissioner: Paul Jordan

Memorial Trees in Lupton Park- We voted unanimously to approve the plantings by the Tree Board.

Barb met with three of the commissioners to go over our ordinance and tasks. Over the next few meetings, we will brainstorm a master plan, ask other Parks and Rec. departments to talk to us about ideas, and rewrite and modify our ordinances.

Today we brainstormed possible micro events:

Examples:

Haunted Park at Lupton on Halloween

Dale Montgomery- does ghost tours. Perhaps he can tell ghost stories

5K run at Croaker Fest

5K run-Spirit of Christmas

Movie night at Lou Mac or Luton

Easter Egg Hunt

Water Safety

Animal Safety

Expert talk on birds, plants, etc.

Commissioner Jordan will try to contact Dale Montgomery to see if he can tell ghost stories this Halloween.

- Josh Ricker will join Parks and Rec.
- Beth Obenshain- is interested in joining

Commissioner Jordan will continue to recruit new members.

We need to weed and rake at Lupton Park- sometime in November.

Adjourn 4:10

Tourism & Eco Development Board

Informal Update to Town Council — October 2026

The Tourism & Eco Development Board is currently focused on building a clear foundation for Oriental's tourism promotion and eco-development efforts, while identifying practical ways to use available tourism funds while honing a fresh perspective for marketing and branding.

Current Areas of Focus

- Tourism Budget & Priorities
 - Reviewing available funds and identifying priority uses that support the Board's mission and strategic goals.
 - Developing a framework for future tourism-related budget requests and expenditures.
 - Approved funding 2 media symposiums for end of September and end of October:
 - 1. NC Outdoors (Mark) highlighting Oriental's fishing, hunting and outdoor experiences to various publications and brands
 - 2. VisitNC State Media Mission (Kim) networking with travel, food and agritourism publications, writers & influencers to visit Oriental
- Events & Festivals
 - Supporting promotion of upcoming Oriental events and festivals.
 - Looking at ways the Board can assist with event visibility and visitor engagement and heightened business collaboration
- Website & Eco Développement
 - Developing priorities for the Town's website & tourism landing page.
 - Exploring eco-development initiatives and opportunities to strengthen partnerships with local organizations and businesses.
- Public Relations, Media & Marketing
 - Building relationships with VisitNC and other tourism/media partners and utilizing VisitNC's event portal for free promotion.
 - Pursuing opportunities for editorial coverage, influencers and travel writers to experience Oriental.
 - Supporting promotion of upcoming festivals and events, including participation in the October tourism/media roundtable.
- Town and Tourism Promotion
 - Developing a more cohesive story, branding and identity for Oriental as a destination — highlighting its waterfront, village character, working waterfront, outdoor recreation, arts, food, events and slower pace of life.

The Board's overall goal is to develop a focused, sustainable approach to tourism promotion and eco-development that supports Oriental's economy while preserving the character and quality of life that make the village distinctive.

Thank you for your support of our efforts

Respectfully and with gratitude

Kim Bell

TEDB Chair

Tourism and Economic Development Committee
September 8, 2026

- Festivals & Events: Subcommittee updates show everything moving smoothly for upcoming festivals and events.
- Website & Eco Dev: We're making progress on the new website, its design, and will gather board input for Tourism landing page in the coming weeks
- Tourism: Exploring numerous initiatives to better showcase Oriental thru state level partners at VisitNC, including media & influencer platforms
- Old Porch Festival: With great excitement, we approved our first funding distribution to help with advertising for the October festival. (We're also developing a grant process so other local festivals and events can request support through our tourism funding)
- Marketing: We're creating a cohesive marketing campaign with a consistent messaging and look across Visit NC, the new website, social media, and other platforms.

There's a lot of enthusiasm on the board, and we're excited about the momentum we're building and the opportunities ahead for Oriental regarding business, visitors & locals .

We whole heartedly invite Town Council and the public to attend any of our meetings

Respectfully submitted

Kim Bell

TEDB Chair

Oriental Harbors and Waterfronts Committee — Meeting Minutes (Draft) Aug 14, 2026

Attendees:, Chair - Pat Stockwell, Emily Fitz, Jim Blackerby Commissioner Don McGuire, Commissioner Paul Jordan, = Manager is ooto

Preliminary Business

Motion to approve July 16, 2026 Minutes by Jim B. seconded by Emily Fritz.

Dinghy Dock Repair

- Repair work is expected to begin Aug 17. Weather delays

Town Dock 2 — Piling Replacement

- Pat indicated that the Prescott bid was received by Diane and cost would be ~ \$3800.
- Motion to approve the repair on the Bulkhead at TD2 made by Jim B., seconded by Emily Fritz with a previous affirmative from Bobby Brewer. All were in favor.

Additional Facilities Repair and Maintenance —

- Whittaker Point fencing repairs and additional normal maintenance at the other facilities are waiting on Bobby Cahoon Marine Construction. Weather/tide and business delays.

Hydrocarbon spill Reported in Racoon Creek

- Extended strong odor and sheen were reported by multiple sources during the dates 08/08-08/16
- Coast Guard was called in to investigate but was unable to identify the source.
- Recommendation was to report the spill to the DEQ rapid response.
- Recommendation for the Committee members on patrol to use the Sound Rivers reporting tool for spill documentation
- Recommendation to put signage up with simple directions for the general public to report spills

John Bond Beach

- Emily has provided Diane with the initial paperwork for a scoping meeting with CAMA/State – still needs work
- Mr Kellenberger met on site with a group of engineers that may assist in developing a best design option. The engineers need official documentation before going forward. Their initial estimate for design only will be \$40k or more.
- Further comments include getting engineer students to help; initial scope of the project was to help with flooding upstream not a beach project. When there is sufficient rain, the drainage works.
- Emily proposed developing a multiprong approach to address drainage, sand and water quality issues

Proposal to advertise a letter writing event (for or against) the proposed dock build along the Harbor jetty

- Emily will coordinate

Meeting adjourned 5:05 pm

Next meeting 4 pm, Sept. 10, 2026

Harbor/Waterfront Advisory Committee — Meeting Minutes

September 10

Attendees: Pat Stockwell, Breena Litzenberger, Bobby Brewer, Commissioner Don McGuire, Jim Kellenberger, Jim Blackerby, Commissioner Paul Jordan (Town Manager Diane Miller joined partway through the meeting)

1. Call to Order

Bobby Brewer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded by Breena Litzenberger. **Motion passed.**

3. Dinghy Dock Update

- The dinghy dock project is complete and looks great.
- Discussion of adding seating to the expanded dock area — options considered included a picnic table (wood vs. plastic/"nautical" style) versus separate table-and-chair setups. Plastic options run roughly double the cost of wood (~\$1,100–\$1,200 for a high-end plastic table with built-in seating).
- Possibility of a local business (e.g., a marina/hardware vendor) donating or discounting furniture in exchange for a name plaque was discussed. The committee noted the town has accepted donated furniture before (e.g., Parks & Rec chairs at the marina), with the understanding that once donated furniture wears out it is not automatically replaced.
- A Breena volunteered to research options and reach out to a potential vendor.

4. Town Manager Report

John Bond Beach

- Diane Miller and Jim Kellenberger met on-site with an engineer (Randy) to review the outfall/drainage issue at John Bond Beach and a related issue at Hodges Street. On a separate occasion, Pat Stockwell, Diane, Kelly Spivey, Jessica Thomas, and Randy Boyd met at both JBB and Hodges St.
- The existing seawall is not deep enough, allowing water to undermine the road; replacing the seawall was identified as the root fix and could be done in phases if full funding isn't available up front.
- The engineer is expected to submit a proposal (estimated around \$50,000) for engineering/design and permitting work only — this covers paperwork and analysis, not construction, and is expected within the next month.
- This project is separate from the Hodges Street drainage issue; the two would have independent proposals.

- The board discussed the value of design/engineering being "shovel ready" in order to qualify for construction grant funding, and the importance of reaching out to state and federal representatives about potential funding.
- A concern was raised about the pace of spending, noting the town previously spent over \$200,000 (reimbursed via ARPA funds) on an earlier engineered fix at the same location that ultimately did not solve the problem, partly because that design process lacked field inspection during construction. The new proposal is expected to include a field-inspection component to avoid a repeat.
- No formal board approval of the \$50,000 engineering expenditure has occurred yet; it is not in the current budget and will need board approval when the proposal arrives.

Town Dock 2 (TD2)

- Contract signed with Prescott (hourly rate); work is pending water levels and scheduling.

Whitaker Point

- Contract signed for inspection and tightening of baffle structures (hourly rate, approximately \$240/hour); weather contingent.
- Funded out of the existing maintenance line item, not a separate budget item.

Budget

- The waterfront budget is currently within its approved amount, though several concurrent projects (TD2, Whitaker Point, and the anticipated John Bond Beach engineering cost) are drawing down the maintenance/savings line steadily. Diane Miller noted the committee has stayed within budget but flagged the pace of expenditures for awareness.

5. Point Pride / Fulcher Dock Permit Application — Status Update

- The postcard/letter-writing effort organized by Emily was a success: she personally mailed roughly 30–32 letters/postcards opposing the permit, with an estimated total of up to ~50 residents participating.
- The public comment window remains informally open — CAMA contact Kelly Spivey has indicated the "30-day" comment period is flexible, and comments will be accepted until the file is formally closed. The committee will not necessarily be notified in advance of closure.
- Dan Allen's public records (FOIA) request regarding the applicant's state agriculture grant has not turned up documentation — according to correspondence, no formal grant application was ever filed, raising questions about how/whether grant funds were obtained.

6. Other Business

Tourism Website — Facility Descriptions

- The town's tourism and economic development board is building a new tourism website and has asked the committee to help write descriptions of the town's waterfront facilities (Town Docks 1 and 2, fishing pier, etc.), including relevant details like docking time limits.
- Breena Litzenberger volunteered to draft copy and will coordinate with the tourism board.

Wayfinding/Informational Signage

- Discussion of adding QR-code-based informational signage at waterfront locations, inspired by similar signage recently seen in Washington, NC.

- Consensus leaned toward starting with smaller signs using the same footprint as existing signage at the Net House and Town Dock (rather than a large standalone sign), with a QR code linking to more detailed information.
- The effort would need to be coordinated with the tourism board and a sign vendor; multiple boards may need to be involved to avoid duplicate or conflicting signage efforts.

7. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn; seconded by Jim Blackerby. **Motion passed.**



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

September 01, 2026

DURATION

09:06 AM through 10:32 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Joan Allen, Pat Allen, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinae (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Anne Frederick, Tom Soderholm, Missy Tenhet

OLD BUSINESS

Inventory Update: As discussed last month, the Board began breaking off into teams, on Tuesday pruning days, to conduct inventory surveys. We now have 25 of the 76 streets surveyed, plus Lou Mac and Lupton Parks. The Recreation Park is half surveyed. Janet is hopeful that the cooler fall and winter weather will increase the momentum.

Arbor Day Move: The North Carolina Legislature has officially moved the state Arbor Week from March to November (N.C.G.S. 103-6). Therefore, our discussion of changing the Oriental Arbor Day celebration to November fully aligns with the state statutes now. John pointed out that the town has already met its planting requirement for TreeCityUSA certification for 2026. However, our ongoing charge for community outreach suggests that we advertise every planting. Since we have at least two planting requests on our roster right now, the Board discussed doing one in November and one in early spring; advertising both as planting/pruning demonstrations. The November Saturday that complies with the state statute this year is *November 14, 2026*.

Episcopal Church Sign: Last month Missy brought up the fact that the Episcopal Church sign at the corner of Broad and New Streets obstructs traffic views. John had discussed this with the rector, who was amiable to the move. John said Tree Board staff will effectuate the move.

Obstructed Stop/Directional Signs: Some STOP and directional signs in town cannot be adequately cleared of vegetative obstruction without removing healthy trees. Joan suggested that the town consider painting thick white bars on the roadway at Broad and Church Streets. The Tree Board will continue to endeavor to clear vegetation where doing so does not compromise the health of the trees.

Sidewalks: In many areas in town the town's ROW is largely consumed by sidewalks. Trees planted in the narrow mowing strip between the road surface and sidewalk often succumb to root girdling and root lifting of the concrete. Janet suggested that the town consider only putting sidewalks on one side of these roads, leaving more room for the trees. The Board acknowledged that this would take careful planning for which side of a street is best suited to being the only walkway; and that, although impacted by the decisions, the Planning Board would be responsible for making that call.

NEW BUSINESS

John mentioned that he will be attending the NC Urban Forestry annual meeting in Hickory on October 8&9. He promises to bring back any useful tidbits.

Fundraising Idea: Missy suggested that, because of the interest by private citizens, the Tree Board could possibly raise funds for mulch, planting and contract services, by raffling off a four-person Tree Board work crew for two hours to work on private trees. John suggested the Board could also make a direct pitch for donations to the Tree Board. Also, John mentioned that there are many grant programs for urban forests; we just need to check their conditions and have a clear written plan.

NEXT MEETING

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 09:00 AM** in the town hall main conference room. Pruning crews meet at the Town Hall most Tuesdays at 9:00AM throughout the year. Volunteers are always welcome to join us.

Special Dates to monitor:

October 2-3, 2026 – Ol' Front Porch Music Festival

November 14, 2026 – Arbor Day in Oriental

December 10-12, 2026 – Spirit of Christmas

Attachment: Activity List as of September 01, 2026

Activity List

PLANTING

- 207 Neuse Street: Tabled. Most of the town's ROW in front of the house on this property has been used for parking for many years. The soil is full of stone and badly compacted. Some planting could be considered on the vacant side lot, but in front of the house, the soil would need to be improved first.
- 209 Neuse Street: A redbud tree in the ROW failed – only a stump remains. The owner requested the stump removed and a live oak planted there instead. During inventory, Janet and Ann discovered that the location is not good for live oak – directly under the utility wires. A much smaller tree is needed there. Also, there may be a risk of latent decay fungus in the soil near the failed redbud.
- 406 Academy Street: Missy met with the owners, and they are definitely interested in a couple of fringe trees. The owners will mark the site. John will do a soil sample to ensure the fringe trees will thrive there. This is a candidate for the November planting.
- 502 South Ave: The owners have expressed interest in possibly replacing the dying dogwood tree with a couple of camelias. There are other large, established camelias on the property. However, the Tree Board has concerns that shrubs in that very narrow planting strip will be a constant sidewalk clearance pruning issue. There is still plenty of time to explore alternatives, since the dogwood tree is looking much healthier this year!
- 803 South Ave: The very large live oaks on the Oriental waterfront here are failing; root girdling appears to be a significant contributor. John said he would approach the owner with the Board's suggestion that the town plant new live oaks this planting season in between the failing trees.

PRUNING

- All Zones: John has a list of young trees that need to be trained NOW before they become tomorrow's problem trees.
- Zone 1:
 - Windmill Point End of the Oriental Bridge: there are ten live oak trees that the NCDOT planted at the town's request over a decade ago, on the embankments on either side of the bridge, on land owned by the NCDOT. These trees are now beginning to encroach on the roadway. Under a maintenance agreement with NCDOT, the Tree Board will be pruning those trees.
 - Broad Street in front of Brantley's: The crepes around Brantley's need thinning and clearance pruning.
 - 902 Midyette: Owner requested crown lifting on live oak for porch views. **DONE 09/04/2026**
- Zone 2:
 - Church & Broad: stop sign obscured (this can be improved but the tree will always be in the way).
 - Town Hall: Chinese Pistache obstructing parking lot and historic signage. **DONE 07/28/2026**
 - 206 Freemason: Large sycamore needs more work. Likely requires contract pruning.
 - 500 Block of Church Street: Long oak limbs over roadway need clearance.

- Net House: Wax myrtles need pruning.
- King & Second Streets: Owner requested Yaupon hollies to be pruned. The yaupon in front of their walkway is looking poorly with some dead wood on the crown. This might be another application of the wrong tree in the wrong place – they block view field when leaving the house. The pecan on the neighbor's lot needs pruning, and the live oak needs to be pruned away from the sidewalk and house. John is trying to contact the owner.
- Zone 3:
 - Mildred & Broad: Stop sign needs clearing.
 - 209 Mildred: Fringe tree needs pruning.
 - 100 Starboard Circle: Road easement clearing and private tree work coordination. Owner requested late fall work.
 - 101 Starboard Circle: Private limbs overhanging the ROW.
 - ~~901 South Ave: Owner requested additional crown lifting for driveway clearance.~~ **DONE**
 - Ragan Road Baptist Church: Stop sign needs clearing.
 - 501 Ragan: Owner requested additional crown lifting of live oaks.
 - 503 Ragan: Owner requested additional crown lifting for driveway clearance.
 - 1207 Lupton Drive: Request that the Yaupon hollies on the ROW need pruning.

REMOVALS/CONTRACT PRUNING

Contract Services Needed

- Throughout Town: There are numerous pine limbs hanging over and dropping into the ROW. The estimate based on an hourly rate of \$200/hour is about \$800.
- NC Wildlife Boat Ramp: The dead cedar in the corner of the parking lot by the waterfront, that the Tree Board cut down several months ago, needs to have the stump ground out.
- Town Hall: Pecan Tree at the inside corner of the parking lot; the top of the tree was removed to accommodate the emergency siren, and tree is degrading. Estimate to remove \$1000.
- Church and Broad Streets: There is a live oak that is fully involved with the power wire running into the Oriental Inn. The power feed will need to be dropped to safely work in this tree. Due to lack of property markers, the ownership of this tree is in question.
- 602 Church Street: A hanger behind/beside the Captain's Quarters.
- 500 South Avenue: Corner of King and South Ave, the live oak at the corner shows signs of branch tip failure and a considerable amount of bark loss at the base. Sounding shows much of the bark around the base has separated from the trunk and there is active fungus growth on the exposed wood. Continue to monitor. There does not appear to be an immediate need to remove.
- 200 Neuse Street: Willow oak on the corner of South Ave and Neuse Street has limbs hitting the house and power lines; someone has been heading back some limbs, but more removals are needed. This is a town tree, and some work can be done by the Board; but there may be some concern about working around the power lines. A Duke "Make Safe" order may be necessary.

- 209 Neuse Street: Owner has requested that the stump of the dead redbud tree be removed and a live oak planted in its place. (See Planting section.)
- Second Ave & High Street: Large pine with large broken limbs hanging. Hangers need removal. Pending estimate.
- 619 Ragan Road: There are four cottonwood trees that are in poor condition; one tree has started to drop limbs in the road. Removal and grinding of stumps have been quoted by Tree Wise at \$3600. The trees have flushed out this year, and are looking OK except for some dead tops. Trees need to be monitored.
- Station 19 Firehouse: The live oak closest to the west side of the parking lot has not flushed out any leaves and appears dead.
- Recreation Park: There is a failing cypress in the north corner of the soccer field, and a dead cypress along the fence line bordering White Farm Road. Given their locations, it is believed these trees offer little risk; but removal will be needed at some point. Estimate to remove the tree in the soccer field is \$750.
- Seafarer & Whitaker Point Roads: Large hanger over the ROW.
- Dolphin Point: While there are numerous trees hanging over the road, given enough time and energy, most of the lower limbs, predominately oaks, can be handled by the Tree Board. The trees that are beyond the current capabilities of the Tree Board are mostly pines with large limbs that originate high in the tree or are inaccessible from the ground. Estimate to remove \$1000.

Private Tree Action Needed

- 403 Neuse Street: Large dead pecan limbs overhanging the town ROW. The town's contractor did some work on this tree; but there is a contract question pending.
- 1002 Neuse Street: Dying pecan beside John Bond Beach; tree is flushing out, somewhat. This tree sits back from the road, and does not appear that it would fall into public property; the tree posed more of a threat to the power line. The tree should be monitored and the owner made aware of the potential liability. **OWNER REMOVED 08/28/2026**
- 101 Starboard Circle: A dead pine next to the stop sign; American Tree is scheduled to remove this tree on July 29th. **DONE 07/29/2026**
- 501 Mildred Street: A dying willow oak next to the stop sign; Diane said she would send a letter to the owner for removal. American Tree did supply an estimate for this removal. **DONE 07/29/2026**
- 1413 Seafarer Road – While inspecting the property for a building permit, John noted several dead trees, and alerted the owner of the concern to the ROW; two trees were later removed; but the last tree, closest to the road was still standing; John will alert Diane to send a letter.

Other

- Factory & Main: The Tree Board will remove the three dead cedars on the corner.
- 2101 White Farm Road: The two red oaks the Tree Board planted in 2022 are ailing. One of them appears to have a fungal disorder. The soil is clay; and a different species may be a better choice for that site. Monitor.

- **Net House:** One of the serviceberry trees is fully dead, and can be removed by the Tree Board. It will be a challenge to identify a suitable replacement.
- **Mystery Citizen:** Town Hall received a call from Nick Carlucci regarding trees; but he did not leave his property address. John attempted contact with him, but has received no response.