

HWAC Meeting Minutes 9/11/2025 - Draft

HWAC Attendees: Jim Blackerby, Jim Kellenberger., Dan Allen. Don McGuire, Town Manager - Diane Miller

Approval of last meeting minutes: Jim K. Made a motion to approve minutes and Jim B seconded.

Manager's Report: Whittaker Creek Dredge project is progressing. King may be the only bidder. Bids open on the 22nd.

Hodges Street. We are seeing additional concrete bulkhead failure. Diane is continuing her search for grant funding for the project.

Safety

1. Proposal to add yearly diver inspections to all waterfront facilities and carry out maintenance earlier in the year.
2. Chapter E September workshop was canceled.
3. Hurricane prep meeting for the public was a success. HWAC participated to help the town get ready by removing items that might cause or be damaged or lost

Access

1. Bobbie Brewer volunteered to put a sketch together of an additional dock along the WRC launch shoreline. An additional dock would help with congestion when pulling out.
2. Greg Bohmert (meeting attendee) recommended looking at the Kenedy land for parking
3. Members will look into ways to promote the Town's waterfront facilities

Enhancements

1. Bobby B. gravel is planned to be spread at the Small Boat Dock and WRC launch parking area

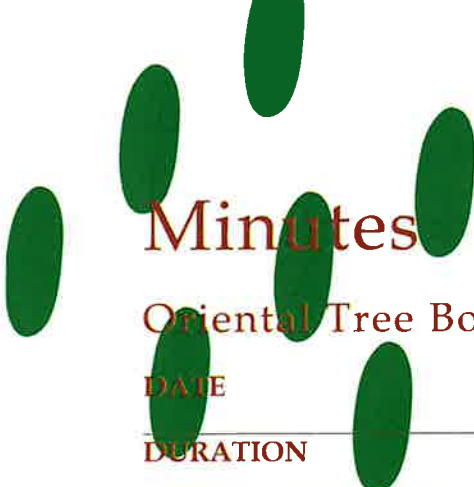
No commissioner comments

Jim K makes a motion to adjourn at 5:30, Don McGuire seconds

Next Meeting Nov. 13, 2025 4pm Townhall

RS

Don McGuire



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

August 26, 2025

DURATION

09:06 AM through 10:07 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair



IN ATTENDANCE

Pat Allen, Phil Borders, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinae (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Allen Price (com.), Tom Soderholm, Madeline Sutter (em), Missy Tenhet, Cathy Washburn

Ordinance Amendments: After some research, Janet concluded that the available on-line tools for calculating appropriate penalties for damage to town trees, are woefully inadequate. The \$500.00 per DBHI (diameter at breast height in inches) with a maximum of \$5,000.00 per tree, proposed by this board, is very reasonable compared to some of the insurance and legal calculators. Cathy suggested that, perhaps a \$500.00 refundable deposit attached to all building permits would keep the issue of tree protection front of mind. However, not all construction impacting town trees needs a permit, and damage to trees may not show up for several years (as is the case with the extensive damage to town trees on Windward), long after the contractor has retrieved its deposit. The Tree Board unanimously approved the \$500.00/DBHI penalty to be incorporated into our request to the Commissions for an ordinance change.

Recruitment: The Tree Board welcomed their newest member: Joan Allen. Joan's husband Pat filled in for her at today's meeting. Welcome Joan and Pat!

Tree Inventory Project: A little bit of progress on the inventory: last week Cathy and Janet completed the survey of Ragan Road. The inventory is about 15% complete so far. After this meeting, Cathy & Janet will work on completing Mildred. This inventory is critical to support longer term budget planning.

Duke Line Clearing: John was notified by Duke Energy that the main transmission lines in Oriental are scheduled for line clearing this year. No specific date was given. Janet offered to craft a press release to alert town residents.

New TreeCityUSA Signs: DOT has not responded to our requests for location approval. John said the standard is 4' from the paved edge. Board members will pick spots on the entrance to town from the bridge, and at the corner of Broad and Silverbrook, and install the signs ourselves.

Tree Removals:

Much more of the Tree Board's time and energy is going into removing dead and dying trees and large dangerous limbs as the urban forest ages. The current Tree Board budget only includes operational costs plus one or two removals per year. At our last meeting, Allen suggested that, at the time of our next budget

request, we submit our estimates for removals for the Commissioners to consider as a separate line item for better expenditure control.

Some candidates include:

- ~~600 Main Street (on Broad Street): A large dead pecan tree at the corner; THIS TREE WAS REMOVED THIS MONTH;~~
- A dead cypress tree at the Wildlife Ramp;
- Three dead/dying cedars at the corner of Factory & King Streets by the duck pond;
- ~~403 Factory Street: A hazard willow oak; THIS TREE WAS REMOVED THIS MONTH;~~
- ~~209 Neuse Street: A small dead tree at the corner of King and First; THIS TREE WAS REMOVED THIS MONTH;~~
- 308 Neuse Street (corner of Neuse Street & Factory): dead pecan tree;
- 403 Neuse Street (on Academy Street): a large dead pecan tree; GIS puts it in the town ROW – that needs to be verified;
- 206 Freemason (corner for Freemason & First Ave.): A large sycamore needs large lower limbs removed;
- 300 High Street: The center of the large sycamore tree is dead, and the tree needs to be removed;
- Four dead poplar trees on Ragan: QUOTE FOR REMOVAL RECEIVED; WAITING FOR FUNDS.

Planting: Planting plans are being made for the Fall of this year as follows:

309 High Street: Greg & Mary Sharpe are interested in crepe myrtles in their front yard. Board members will evaluate the space for up to three trees there, for a fall planting. John will contact to owners for their color preference.

~~305 Broad Street:~~ Ann Christian is interested in a couple of trees between her house and Hodges Street, with an eye to providing some visual break between the road and the new Mariposa Bakery. After careful evaluation, the Board has determined that there is insufficient room for any tree planting. John will notify the owner.

~~305 Mildred:~~ the owners chose to plant their own trees inside their property line.

~~6001 Dolphin Road:~~ the owner chose to plant their own trees inside their property line.

The new Camp Creek subdivision offers an opportunity for the Board to apply landscape architecture concepts to the planting of the town ROW there. More of the houses need to be built, and driveways marked, before any planting will be scheduled there.

Pruning Activities:

Tom suggested, and the Board approved, concentrating our pruning efforts to the high traffic areas of the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival venues. We can then return to finish up in areas 1A and 1B for the rest of the year.

Other special pruning requests outside of area 1A include:

- In the Recreation Park, at the request of the county, Board members raised the crowns of the trees along the fence on White Farm Road. Rain curtailed the effort. More needs to be done there;

- Along the entranceway to the Recreation Park, there are sycamore limbs hanging into the drainage ditch;
- The crepe myrtles inside the dog park fences need de-suckering;
- 204 Wall Street: A very small crepe myrtle on Wall Street in front of Marsha's Cottage needs to be pruned away from signage;
- 501 Academy Street: sign blocked;
- 403 South Ave: A live oak blocking the yield sign on King Street & South Avenue;
- 502 South Ave: Neuse Street Extension live oaks need crown lifting 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;
- 301 High Street, New construction: Crepe Myrtles need to be pruned for driveway access;
- 303 Vandemere: A request to significantly prune a live oak. Bob and John agreed that some light pruning may help, but that the tree can't handle 'significant' pruning;
- 503 Ragan: owner requested lower limbs of live oaks pruned up for driveway clearance.

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.
- 400 South Ave: The Board pruned the limbs of several live oaks away from the house last year. The owner asked if more could be done. John looked at the trees, and nothing is closer than 4' from the house – he suspects that some type of lift would be needed to do any more. It is too soon this year to do more pruning on those trees until later this year.
- 500 South Ave: Two oaks at the corner of Wall extension & South Ave also show signs of advancing herbicide damage. They are shedding bark. These need to be monitored for possible removal.
- 600 Main: Diane sent a letter to the owner of a large dying pecan tree on private property, asking for the owner to remove this hazard threatening the neighbors and passersby.
- 201 Neuse Street: Protective fencing has been erected – possibly more needed around the oak on Neuse. John has sent texts to the owner and builder concerning the oaks on Neuse Street – no response from the builder. This may need to be escalated.
- Lou Mac Park: Several of the trees along the bulkhead have been scarred at the base and the bark has separated. No rot was found, but they need to be monitored. The Tree Board members removed the defunct Christmas lights from the large live oak in the center of the park.
- 903 First Ave: A dead pecan tree on private property at the corner of High & First. The owner needs to be notified that this hazard tree needs to be removed.
- 400 High Street: two oak trees are leaning into the swale. Monitor.

- 6000 Dolphin Road (corner of Dolphin & White Farm): There are pine trees with large branches that are overhanging the roadway and town ROW that are being damaged by passing trucks. The trees are not on town property. Diane may need to contact the property owner to address the issue.
- 401 Broad, Mariposa: The dogwood trees in front of the new building are dying. These trees were planted in the town's ROW by the landscaper. 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.
- 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.

NEXT MEETING

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 09:00 AM** in the town hall main conference room. Pruning crews meet at the Town Hall most Tuesdays throughout the year.

Oriental Water Advisory Board

Friday, September 12, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ethan Gartin (phone), Nick Wilhelm (phone), Rich Guimond (phone), Daniel Early, Steve Drew, Jeff Sanders, Commissioner Bonnie Crosser, Manager Miller, Residents: Greg Bohmert and Chris Moffat.

1. Water Plant Rehabilitation Project.

Completed on site tour of facility on 9/9/25. Attendees: Ethan Gartin, Nick Wilhelm, Hemant Sura (Electrical Engineer), Daniel Early, Jeff Sanders, Commissioner Crosser, Manager Miller, Butch Rasmussen, and Resident Greg Bohmert.

Items of note:

- SCADA upgrade should provide remote monitoring but no need for remote operation. The following should be included in the system:
 - Power conditions of the water treatment plant
 - Pressure monitoring
 - Sewer pump status and failure alarm
 - High service pump status and failure alarm
 - Other items to be coordinated with Town during assembly of performance specification
- Automatic Transfer Switch Panel needs to be coated, since it is not a NEMA 4X panel.
- De-humidification is greatly needed, so a de-humidifier should be incorporated.
- **Well pump inspections are to be included in the Water Plant Rehabilitation Project.**
- The tank mixer will also be pursued as a separate expense per above.
- Second power service to storage/maintenance building discovered and will be incorporated into electrical design.
- Replace hydraulically controlled backwash process valves with electronic valves
- Jeff Sanders recommends test the wells at the beginning of the rehabilitation of the plant.

Project Manager for the Town's ongoing projects with TRC will transition to Nick Wilhelm, PE. SCADA requires further refinement from Daniel and TRC to finalize required components.

Brine Tank – open decision to relocate or replace.

2. Booster Station. 90% plan completed: specifications should be completed late September.

Structural review is complete and electrical design has begun.

- Incorporate the gate at both ends of the tank access road.
- Triplex pump selection be swapped to a duplex pump unit.
- Oriental would inquire regarding the sewer connection with Bay River MDS.
- Request to add bifurcation wall to chlorine building to separate into two compartments.
- PreFab Building decision made. Possible leverage of Counties EFI supplier.
- TRC to provide update project timeline.
- TRC to research options for generator – include in current vs evaluation later.

3. Valve Replacement. TRC to obtain status with DWI on design submittal. Design submitted to DWI, DEQ, and NCDOT.
 - Daniel noted the valve on Church/Freemason still missing in plans. TRC to decision to address via an addendum to the bid.

TRC to review with DEQ options remaining funds from the project at completion.

Documentation is complete regarding the combination of projects form for DWI. Manager Miller to contact Dustin Rhodes with DEQ regarding reporting and project funding totals.

Copper Issue

Slightly outside of test limits for August 2025. Believed we were shipped the last of the “old” LAS which cause the negative test results. County tests were within acceptable ranges. Mr. Baily is engaged with DEQ to finalize the permit and adjustment to incorporate the diffuser – which could yield 4 to 5 times more tolerance with the copper testing limits. Oriental received four NOVs and a request to rescinded was submitted by Mr. Baily on behalf of Oriental. Dialog between Mr. Baily and DEQ continue.

Prepared by: Commissioner Bonnie Crosser.