

Parks and Recreation Fall Festival Meeting Notes

October 6, 2025

Meeting began at 3:00 PM

In attendance:

Vicki Rasmussen

Kimberly Langson

Eileen Price

Barb Miller- via Google Meet

Alice Flannigan

Commissioner Bonnie Crosser

• Latin Band is confirmed we'll do 1:00-2:00 Pamlico Arts Chris Daniels is confirmed for sound***
Edit. Not the Latin Band, we don't have confirmation of who, but Angi assured me they will have music.***

• Need to put up flyers around town. **Flyers have been passed out ***

• Facebook- Oriental NC Ladies of Oriental, Love of Oriental, Pamlico Event calendar, Town of Oriental

• Womens' Club sent out a newsletter

• Someone will possibly sell wooden crafts

• Any decorations for the pavilion?

• Meet Thursday, 23rd at the park 1:00PM

• Activity signs about \$300

We'll put them up the day before

• Give away gift card to 'Nautical Wheelers- people can put their name in a jar.

• We've collected \$450 so far from sponsors.

• Trash, recycle, grass mowed, Porta Potti, and check for petting zoo

• Barb has 3 tables

• \$20/ sign for the different areas to mark at the Rec Park

Businesses that donate will have their name on a sign

Job assignments(loosely chosen)

- Vicki- Bocce Ball
- Steve Tug o' war
- Steve and Eileen cornhole
- Butch- sharks' teeth
- Butch- parking
- Barb- Volleyball
- Kim Sack races
- Look for volunteers----

8:00- 9:00 am we meet on the morning of

Marsha came- Spirit of Christmas-

Lights from Croaker Festival are not working properly. We can wrap trunks at Lou Mac Park instead of hanging lights.

Lowes has blow up decorations- Oriental Trading has them as well.

Parks and Rec pay for decorations and lights for the park.

3:56 - Adjourn

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Notes

November 4, 2025

Meeting began at 3:00 pm

In attendance:

Vicki Rasmussen

Barbara Miller

Alice Flannigan

Spirit of Christmas:

*Marsha Paplham and 2 volunteers attended first half of meeting to discuss cookie exchange, decorations, and lighting. Marsha has ordered some lights.

*Meta Jones contact for tree lighting memorials
910-389-9529

*Cookie exchange to happen at tree lighting on Dec 11th.
Time yet to be decided.

*Bring a dozen stake a dozen, also small bags of cookies at separate table. Must bring dozen to take dozen.

*Suggestion to use candy canes as stirrers for hot cocoa.

*Barb to inquire about borrowing large hot water container(s) from Womans Club.

- *P and R to purchase candy canes, cocoa, cups, napkins and food handling gloves.
- *Vicki and Barb have tables and extension cords.
- *Vicki going to look for decorations and lanterns.

Fall Festival Feedback

- *\$61 in donations received
- *petting zoo a hit, music a bomb
- *separate raffle from information table
- ***ESTABLISH EARLY DATE** for next year's festival. We will decide in JAN 2026 so bring your calendars.
- *needs to be some sort of entertainment at the pavilion all day.
- *Ideas discussed music, magician, juggler, clown
- *Need free hotdogs for patrons
- *need volunteers (churches, High schools, youth groups)
- *additional food vendors (funnel cakes, good humor, kettlecorn)
- *addition of craft vendors
- *use sound system provided by band to announce even

Additional Items

- *Received updated budget report from Manager Miller, plenty of \$
- *Suggestion of quarterly park maintenance schedule (MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC) to avoid getting backed up.

*Discussed inquiry about renovating exercise equipment and reviving trail at Rec Park. Leave as is for now.

*Thank you cards to volunteers.

*Mayor Belangia inquiring about childrens event for Boat Show. (face painting, juggler, magician)

*P and R to help with welcome table at NC Cycle 2026.

Meeting Adjourned 4:00 PM

Oriental Water Advisory Board

Friday, October 10, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Nick Wilhelm (phone), Rich Guimond (phone), Daniel Early, Steve Drew, Jeff Sanders, Butch Rasmussen, Commissioner Bonnie Crosser and Allen Price, Manager Miller, Residents: Greg Bohmert.

1. Water Plant Rehabilitation Project.

TRC, Nick Wilhelm, provided an update to the design status: Working on a 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. The initial prefab discussion centered around a solution offered by EFI Solutions.

- TRC to have the analysis complete by October month end.
- Town moving forward with the replacement of the Mixer.
- Contract for consulting services for Mr. Baily approved by Board.

2. Booster Station. Similar to the Water Plant, TRC, Nick Wihlem, working on a cost benefit analysis to compare a prefab building with components installed onsite by various vendors to a complete prefab solution for building and components installed at the factory. The initial prefab discussion centered around a solution offered by EFI Solutions.

- TRC to have the analysis completed by first half of November.

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

- DWI approved TRC to define next steps.
- TRC verifying if additional permitting is required.
- Decision to address hydrants and additional piping which may be required.
- Discussion on RFF revisions for additional items. Manager Miller recommendation is to increase the RFF to equal direct funding (Grant) amount. Open item – is the need for looping in the cul-de-sacs.

TRC to provide status when the project has moved to the Bid Phase.

Copper Issue.

- September 2025 testing limits slightly outside of test limits 2.0 – limit is 1.85.
- Completed the Three-Year Drinking Water Test - 10 sites, all tested above 90% - which speaks to our water quality.
- Continue with DEQ regarding are expired Permit. Mr. Baily continues his efforts to bring a resolve to this outstanding issue and resolution with the NOVs.

Prepared by: Commissioner Bonnie Crosser

Oriental NC HARBORS and WATERFRONTS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Oct 09, 2025, 4 PM
ORIENTAL TOWN HALL

Attendees: Bobby Brewer, Don McGuire, Pat Stockwell, Jim Blackerby, Dan Allen (by phone), Jim Kellenberg and Emily Fritz, Manager Miller, and Commissioner Litzenberger

Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM motion by Jim Blackerby and seconded by Bobby Brewer

1. Approval of the last meeting minutes: Jim B. motions for minutes to be approved, Dan Allen seconds. Minutes are approved
2. Manager's Report: Manager Miller is temporarily detained, so Dan Allen is updating us on Whittaker Point Project: Spoil site is ready to accept spoils. The contract with King has been reviewed by Lawyer and it will also be at the Town Board meeting for approval at next week's meeting. Once that is approved, they can execute the contract. The HWAC committee approves the contract. Jim K. makes the motion and Pat seconds and it passes unanimously.
3. Facility Check:
 - a. Someone stole the dip net. Jim K bought a replacement and will put it back.
 - b A measuring tape will be added to fishing pier railings to help fishermen determine legal sizes - John Deaton will provide the stickers through TowBoats.
 - c Weekly summation is lagging, but we would like to get back in that routine.
 - d A work day is needed.to clean up debris from the recent storms
4. The committee unanimously passed a recommendation to bid out the Dinghy Dock bulkhead and platform rebuild. .Jim B makes a motion to put it out to bid, Jim K seconds. All in favor. Dan will send a note to Jessica Thomas to see what paperwork we need. Dan will contact Jessica Thomas at CAMA to see what type of permit is required. Bobby Brewer volunteered to provide Diane with a bid document with basic info. Dan shared a go-by version of the bid document used for the Dredge project. Emily will look into grant options for help funding the project. The contractor for Bobby Calhoun estimated a Dinghy Dock Bulkhead and deck rebuild would roughly run \$20,000
5. John Deaton speaking on TowBoats' experience with ADVs. The problem is often where we can take the boat. The ordinance allows the town to take ownership of an ADV and once we do, then we're able to look into resources and plans for moving forward. John Deaton is going to look into grants from TowBoats for removing ADVs. The key is to have an ordinance that allows the town to take ownership and that way they have jurisdiction to handle the situation.
6. New access or upgrade ideas for DEQ grant: Bobby proposes a staging dock to be added at the WRC boat ramp to help keep the flow of ingress and egress of the boat launch area quicker and therefore the traffic backup will be minimized. This could be

proposed to the state. Bobby expressed his concern that the WRC fund it and then we find property and then lose our opportunity to expand parking because we've already received funding from the state for the pier. There's talk of trying to see if we can lease the Kennedy or Evan's property and then also do the pier. Bobby is going to continue to look into maximizing the ramp and parking.

7. John Bond Beach: Pat will be speaking to Manager Miller about steps forward
8. Ideas for Promoting the town waterfront facilities: Rotary had their first boat show meeting today. They also talked about how to make the show more exciting for example a tent for the Town Harbors and Waterfront facilities.
9. Follow up with Emily looking for grants that are out there: there are less and less and the ones that are out there are on hold. Sound Rivers is very open to teaming up with HWAC for going after a grant but it would have to do with water quality. Manager Miller has a lead on a grant that she will forward to Emily.
10. No commissioner comments

Motion made to adjourn by Don McGuire and Jim K seconds all in favor. Meeting ends at 5:18 pm

The next HWAC meeting will be held on Nov.13, 2025

RS

Breena Litzenberger



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

September 30, 2025

DURATION

09:06 AM through 10:32 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Phil Borders, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinae (sec'y), Bonnie Crosser (com.), John Deaton (chair), Diane Miller (mgr.), Bob Miller (em), Chris Moffatt (guest), Allen Price (com.), Tom Soderholm, Madeline Sutter (em), Missy Tenhet, Cathy Washburn

Ordinance Amendments:

As Janet read out the requested changes to the tree ordinance, various commissioners and board members suggested additional consideration for alternatives. Specifically:

- Article I Section 4 – Bonnie Crosser recommended, and the board agreed, that, in order to address recruitment issues, instead of removing *all* residency requirements for board membership, that we change the ordinance language to require at least two (2) members be town residents.
- Article IV – Diane recommended that we add a section 7, citing the GMO/Zoning ordinance, requiring the Tree Board to sign off on zoning compliance forms for permits.
- Article VI Section 1 – Diane suggested that we should consider adding language in the Protection During Construction section regarding using a stop-work order to ensure compliance. John suggested that the Tree Board should be installing the protective fencing, since our experience is that the contractors don't do it correctly; but that the contractors have to be held to maintaining it. There was additional discussion about the enforcement of this, and other, violation provisions in the ordinance. Diane mentioned that wherever there is a requirement, there has to be an enforcement mechanism. The difficulty has been in proving the violation in a timely manner. Diane suggested that the Tree Board draft some kind of informational flyer regarding town trees and owner's requirements that can be given to new water customers. This could capture some of the new construction before it starts. John suggested that the Board could offer more pruning seminars to help educate the citizenry. Bob has a PowerPoint presentation that he has used for town staff education in the past that he can offer. John also has several ISA pamphlets on trees around construction that the town could offer with permits.
- Article VIII Section 2 – Missy suggested we remove the words "or shrub" and add the words "or prune" to the first sentence.
- Article X – There was much discussion on the violations section. The Board had requested a significant increase in the fines in this section. Diane alerted us that there is a \$500.00 state limit on misdemeanors (under which ordinance violations fall) (Diane supplied the state statute citation after the meeting). But that the threat of a stop-work order carries more weight with contractors.

The ordinance may need to include both a fine and a threat of work stoppage to cover both circumstances. Again, the issue is timely notification of the violations. Cathy asked if it would be possible to ask for a refundable deposit with the permits to help with contractor awareness of the ordinance. Diane said, no; a deposit constitutes a bond, and there are significant project cost thresholds and other procurement hurdles to that.

Janet will review today's discussions and draft additional changes to the ordinance for Board review.

Recruitment: Tom brought up that he has been trying to talk up volunteer opportunities to help the board with its pruning program. He asked if we could have teams work on Tuesday and Friday, to accommodate peoples' schedules. Diane said that, unfortunately, the town crews can not pick up debris after Thursday morning each week. The only way we could work two days a week is if we bring trailers and haul the debris ourselves. This is a very labor-intensive process. And it would require board members to be available and willing to supervise the work two days a week. While it does happen that some board members will work more than one day a week, it is rare, and not scheduled.

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.

Duke Line Clearing: Janet drafted, and Diane posted on social media, a notice to citizens about imminent Duke Energy line clearing throughout town. Bob mentioned that the piles of mulched debris from Duke line clearing in the area are combustion risks and must be removed timelier. Diane has contacted Duke about our concerns.

Diane was also alerted that Brightspeed is marking the town for cable installation down Broad Street. She has alerted Brightspeed of our augering ordinances. The cable is planned to go right through the roots of most of the town trees on one side of Broad Street.

New TreeCityUSA Signs: John marked the locations and has contacted 811 for utility marking for the two new signs. Board members will install them as soon as 811 service clears the planned locations.

Tree Removals:

Diane announced that the town is already overbudget on contract services for removals and complex pruning. A budget amendment is needed. John agreed to prepare a prioritized list of the trees that still need attention with cost estimates for Commissioner consideration. Bob cautioned that we must call the damaged trees "High Risk Trees," not "Hazard Trees"; there are liability issues with the later term. Bob offered to assign the ISA risk levels to the trees on the list.

Some candidates for removal include:

- A dead cypress tree at the west end of the parking lot at the Wildlife Ramp (could be removed by Tree Board members);
- Three dead/dying cedars at the corner of Factory & King Streets by the duck pond;
- King Street Extension: A live oak is dropping limbs into the ROW. The tree may need to be removed;
- 402/404 Main Street: two large sycamore trees with dead sections in the upper center of the tree – removal of the dead wood;
- 500 South Ave (corner of King Street & South Ave): The live oak is failing fast;
- 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 of Freemason & First Ave.): A large sycamore needs large hanging limbs removed;
- 300 High Street: The center of the large sycamore tree is dead, and the tree needs to be removed;
- ~~903 First Street (corner of First & High): Large dead and rotten pecan, REMOVED;~~
- 611-619 Ragan: Four dead cottonwood trees on Ragan adjacent to the Minimart;
- 303 Ragan: Large pine recently struck by lightning;
- 407 Ragan: Large pine recently struck by lightning;
- 307 Vandemere: A large dead pine that borders on the Second Ave grass easement between Vandemere and High Street;
- Water Treatment Plant on Gilgo: There is a large sycamore tree on private property (Three Seas Legacy LLC) that is leaning into the access beside the water plant generator;
- 1002 Neuse Drive: There is a failing oak tree on private property that may pose a risk to the power line.

The Board is monitoring other trees that may be added to the list as their conditions deteriorate.

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 winter planting. John will contact the owners for their color preference. 811 service has marked and cleared the site for planting. Awaiting budget approval.

Pruning Activities:

Missy suggested that the Board wait to prune any sycamore trees until after their leaves drop. These trees have hairs on the undersides of their leaves that can be a skin irritant.

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; The crepe myrtles inside the dog park fences need de-suckering; Along the entranceway to the Recreation Park, there are sycamore limbs hanging into the drainage ditch; Also, the trees in the picnic area need to have their crowns lifted, especially for a planned event on November 1;
- The cypresses at the corner of Neuse Street & Factory need attention;
- 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;
- 503 Ragan: owner requested lower limbs of live oaks pruned up for driveway clearance.
- 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.

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. The owner says he is interested in hiring a contractor to prune the higher limbs back.
- 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.
- 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 neem, and monitor for replacement.

NEXT MEETING

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, October 28, 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.