

Oriental NC HARBORS and WATERFRONTS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Nov. 13, 2025, 4 PM
ORIENTAL TOWN HALL

Attendees: Don McGuire, Jim Blackerby, Dan Allen (Remotely), Pat Stockwell, Bobby Brewer, Commissioner Breena Litzenberger, Town Manager Diane Miller

Jim B. Calls the meeting to order at 4:03

1. Approval of October 2025 Meeting Minutes: Bobby makes a motion to approve Pat seconds. Unanimous approval.
2. Facilities Reports: 30 Day Highlights
 - a. There's a sign at Midyette Boat Ramp that is overgrown and light, so Town Manager will trim the bushes, and look into whose sign it is.
 - b. Bobby will talk to Wildlife about one Midyette Street dock being shorter than the other.
 - c. Boats rafted up and aground, but they are gone now. The sign may be gone for "No Rafting"
 - d. The PW did a great job of cleaning up after the large storm
 - e. The life ring is on order for the fishing pier: Diane will confirm
 - f. Everyone needs to check the three benches at the waterfront off Neuse because they could be dirty or need repair. They may also need to be pulled out of the ground as they have sunk down.
3. Town Manager's Report:
 - a. See Dinghy Dock and Bulkhead Update for notes on upcoming bid
4. Whittaker Creek Update: They are finishing setting up the pipes and anytime now the dredge should be there. The company is trying to find a place to stay for the month.
 - a. CAMA has been notified of the dredge
 - b. Dan has to notify the Army Corps of Engineers. They have been contacted by Jessica, but Dan will follow up tonight.
5. John Bond Beach: Manager Miller needs to send Pat a description of what we plan for drainage and why it is not working currently and then he will go from there.
6. Chapter E - Minor update:
 - a. Let's give Manager Miller more control of when to close the docks.
 - b. 48 hour docking outside of fishing restrictions. Jim B makes a motion to establish a 48 hour time limit, Pat seconds, passed unanimously.
7. Water Access and Grant Availability
 - a. January's grant: Drainage for John Bond Beach is what we will try and go after for this grant, under recommendation of the Town Manager.

8. Plan the work day: December 4th or the 8th potential dates. Dan suggested the 4th and the 8th be a rain day. Town Dock 2 grounds will be in use from 3-5 pm for the Spirit of Christmas festivities.
9. Dinghy Dock and Bulkhead Update:
 - a. Bobby wrote up a bid proposal and sent to Manager Miller
 - b. Manager Miller will add the dates and then give it to Commissioners to put out to bid
 - c. Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference with contractors for Dinghy Dock Bulkhead and Platform - November 21st at 2:15PM at the Dinghy Dock. Bid opening date will be December 5th 2:00PM
 - d. If we don't get three bids and if it's more than \$20,000 we will have to put it out to bid again. Second bid request would go out December 10th (published) and opening would be December 22nd. Second Pre-Bid Conference with contractors will be December 16th at 2:00PM
 - e. Dan Allen spoke to CAMA and they said we just needed a general permit. Town will acquire the permit so Bobby will remove that in the proposal request. It's all online - Dan will send Bobby a link to where he can find it.
 - f. Bobby makes a motion to move forward with this project. Pat Stockwell seconds. Unanimous approval.
10. Initiate Discussion on New Liaison and Committee Members: Discussion
11. Jim B makes the motion to adjourn, Pat seconds.

The next HWAC meeting will be held on Dec. 11, 2025

RS

Breena Litzenberger



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

November 04, 2025

DURATION

09:04 AM through 10:07 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Pat Allen, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinaea (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Ken King (em.), Diane Miller (mgr.), Bob Miller (em.), Tom Soderholm, Missy Tenhet, Cathy Washburn

Pruning Times – Fall Back – Janet suggested, and the Board agreed, that start times for pruning activities move back to 10:00 AM to let the mornings warm up a bit before we brave the elements. Meetings will still start at 9:00 AM.

Ordinance Amendments: Janet made the suggested adjustments to the tree ordinance and sent them to Diane to share with the commissioners. Diane suggested that, since today is election day, we wait for the new Board of Commissioners to be seated before making the presentation.

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: Line clearing activities have started in earnest in town. Complaints about the butchery had been mounting. So, representatives from Duke line maintenance divisions made themselves available on Wednesday, October 29, at town hall, to address citizen concerns.

Duke Energy's standard is, and always has been, a full 15' clearance around all primary/bearing lines (the highest lines on each pole) and transformers. Maintaining secondary/communications line clearance is the responsibility of the property owner. They acknowledged that this year's line clearing seems more aggressive because it was delayed several years. While asserting Duke's rights to clear their airspace, they agreed to work with property owners to address the most egregious work, either by cleaning up bad cuts, balancing the cuts, or replacing the badly damaged trees in some cases. Each situation needs to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. They asked for patience over cleaning up the debris because they have to truck the cuttings all the way to Tuscarora, which takes extra time.

While it does not help this year, the Duke representatives agreed to work with the Tree Board to prepare citizen outreach materials to explain the various responsibilities for tree maintenance around power lines.

There was some discussion at the Duke meeting regarding moving utility lines underground. This option is cost-prohibitive for the town and for most property owners. It often requires removing hundreds of trees and replanting. Duke pointed out that, while underground utilities are more reliable, if there is a problem with them,

they are more difficult and disruptive to repair. But those property owners willing to bear the cost, can always petition Duke to move the lines on their properties. All new developments should strongly consider installing underground utilities before new homes are built.

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

Tree Removals:

Diane is working on the budget amendment needed to address urgent tree removals this budget year. John is updating the prioritized list of the trees that still need attention with cost estimates for commissioner consideration.

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

Pat brought to the Board's attention that there is some 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. He will monitor developments.

Planting: Planting plans for the remainder of the fiscal year are on hold until the budget amendment is approved, or until private donations can fill this gap.

Pruning Activities:

John, again, suggested that the Tree Board needs to be more aggressive with overhead clearance cuts. We seem to be going back to the same streets repeatedly because limbs sag after heavy rains or heavy blooms.

Other special pruning requests outside of area 1A include:

- 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;
- 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;
- John reported that the OUMC church parishioners have agreed to remove the dying crabapple trees in their parking lot;
- 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.

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.
- 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 systemic drench, and monitor for replacement.
- Bob also identified laurel trees in the Lupton Park that have laurel wilt disease. This is an affliction on potentially all laurel species in the area. It is spread by the ambrosia beetle. There is currently no effective treatment. The park trees will need to be removed and replaced with resistant species.

Arbor Day 2026 – John reported that he has completed and submitted the application for next year's TreeCityUSA certification. 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 agreed to draft a campaign press release of some sort.

Oriental Town Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party – This year's Holiday Party is December 05, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the town hall main conference room. All Tree Board members and their significant others are invited.

NEXT MEETING

Because of the Holiday, the next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, December 02, 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.

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