

## DRAFT Minutes from WAB meeting on January 14, 2026

In attendance:

Jeff Sanders, Lou Ostendorff, Butch Rasmussen, Don McGuire, Steve Drew, Daniel Early, Rich Guimond, Paul Jordan, Iris Cooper

**Introduction** – Introduction of and to Roger Huth, the new Board Chair and went over roles and responsibilities (already known to the board from prior meetings)

### Updates:

#### **Water Plant Rehabilitation Project** –

1. EFI has not provided an update on the design and there has been difficulty communicating with EFI so we cannot proceed under the assumption that this will be an option unless that changes quickly.
  - a. **Action Items:**
    - i. Escalate within EFI. **Need to know if they will b (Nick)**
    - ii. **Need a timeline from TRC on their solution. (Nick)**
2. Filter component testing elements and PFAS test are complete (October). Daniel is also providing additional samples to provide to TRC and to Harry for the design work

#### **Booster Station -**

1. Design is essentially complete. Adding a chemical station (or at least the capacity for one) to the booster station to accommodate growth in the areas that are serviced by the booster station.
2. Tour of booster station in Beaufort did not happen in December. Would still be helpful to tour one in my opinion.

#### **Valve replacement**

1. All permits (including PDWS) have been granted.
3. Next steps:
  - a. Funding: Need to consolidate projects related to this work (eg. pipes and paving etc.) to equal the amount of the direct funding so it all falls under the umbrella of the same grant request
    - i. **Action item – Nick to submit consolidated Request for Funding (RFF) to DWI.**
  - b. Bidding process
    - i. Feb 4 – pre-bid meeting for contractors
    - ii. Feb12 – deadline for contractor questions/clarification
    - iii. Feb 25 - bidding open
    - iv. March 3<sup>rd</sup> – recommendations
    - v. March 10 – bid to be awarded by Town board/commissioners at meeting

**Copper issue** – Results from DEQ testing using CORMIX demonstrated that the town is in compliance based on corrected permit with diffuser. Confirmed that no additional fines will be assessed however, the town has not been granted a waiver/refund for previous fines based on the incorrect permit information.

**1. Action items**

- a. **Diane** to contact our attorney and determine if we have a way to reclaim the money we paid in fines.
- b. **?????** to follow up on the approval of the new permit

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am at Town Hall.

Thank you!

Roger Huth



## **ORIENTAL PLANNING BOARD REGULAR MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 3:00PM  
Oriental Town Hall – 507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

### **TOWN OF ORIENTAL PLANNING BOARD**

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

November 19, 2024

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2024.

#### **Attendance**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Allison DeWeese, Chair, Pete Flood, Linwood Strickland, Kathy Walters  
(newly appointed member)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

- Butch Rasmussen (excused)
- Diane Miller (unable to attend due to crisis)

#### **GUESTS**

- Commissioner-Elect Chris Moffat

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Linwood Strickland and seconded by Pete Flood. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Swearing In**

#### **SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER**

Kathy Walters was officially sworn in as a Planning Board member by Town Clerk. Ms. Walters introduced herself, noting her 28 years of experience working with municipalities and the North Carolina Department of Commerce, including previous service on the Henderson Board of Adjustment.

#### **Board Introductions**

#### **BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

Each member provided brief introductions for the new member, including their backgrounds and length of residence in Oriental.

## OVERVIEW FOR NEW MEMBER

Chair Deweis provided an overview of the Planning Board's role and current challenges:

- The board reviews new developments and challenges to the General Maintenance Ordinance
- Currently prohibited from making GMO changes due to state legislation passed with the hurricane relief bill
- Legislation backdated to mid-2024 has frozen all planning and zoning changes statewide
- Any changes now require unanimous consent of all property owners
- The General Assembly reopened November 17th; hoping for corrective legislation

## NARCAN KIOSK DISCUSSION

The board discussed a proposed county ordinance addressing THC, kratom, and hemp-containing substances. Key points:

- County Commissioners presented ordinance at early November meeting
- Ordinance targets signage and substance sales within 2,500 feet of certain locations
- Multiple levels of legislation affecting this issue:
  - \* Federal: Addendum to government spending bill banning unregulated sale of intoxicating hemp products
  - \* State: House Bill 328 pending in General Assembly
  - \* County: Proposed local ordinance

Board concerns raised:

- Town's strict sign ordinance conflicts with county approach
- Ordinance may be too broad, affecting legitimate hemp agricultural and retail businesses
- Spatial requirements (2,500 feet) impractical for Oriental's size
- Federal and state legislation may address concerns without local action needed

**BOARD DECISION:** Unanimous consensus to not adopt county ordinance at this time. Too much legislative activity at federal and state levels. Board will monitor developments before taking action.

## COMPLIANCE FORMS REVIEW

Land Use Administrator reviewed recent building permits and compliance forms:

- Mr. Mayo: Deck construction on existing home
- O'Neill: New single family residence
- Phillips: Shed addition
- Ford (Freemason Street): Deck addition to existing cottage (non-conforming property, not made more non-conforming)

All permits approved as presented.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

### **Land Use Administrator reported:**

- 1. Dolphin Point Issue: Property owner on Pelican Circle built large patio with retaining wall for disabled family member. At 49.5% lot coverage (within 50% limit) but 25 feet too close to water. Working with CAMA for resolution.**
- 2. Economic Development Inquiry: County economic development director exploring potential significant job creation project involving historic structures (Cheryl's Place/Fulcher Seafood property). Town position: Height limits and impervious surface limits remain firm to preserve town character.**

## **DECEMBER MEETING**

**Motion made and seconded to cancel the December 17th meeting due to holidays and lack of pending business. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Next regular meeting scheduled for January 2025 (date to be determined).**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.**

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- Volunteer Appreciation Party scheduled for December 5th at Town Hall, 3:00 PM**
- All board members reminded of open-door policy with Town Administrator**



# Minutes

## Oriental Tree Board Meeting

**DATE**

January 6, 2026

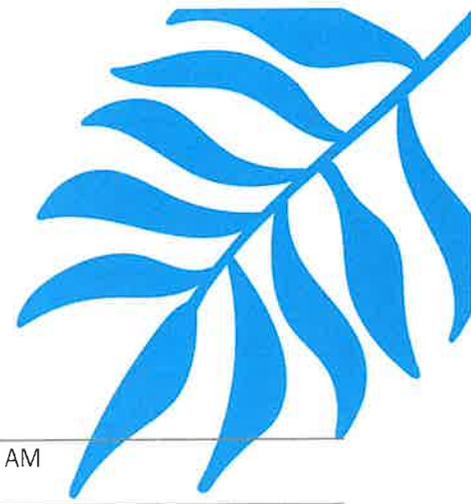
**DURATION**

09:08 AM through 10:46 AM

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY**

John Deaton, chair

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Pat Allen, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinaea (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Lou Ostendorf (com.), Madeline Sutter (em.), Missy Tenhet

**Orientation:** Some time at the beginning of the meeting was spent bringing Lou up to speed on policies concerning pruning of private versus public trees, and inventory efforts. Lou offered to discuss options for getting the inventory data on a GIS layer for town use.

**Duke Line Clearing:** John reported that Duke is still working in the area. He has been updating them with areas that need debris clean-up as he is made aware of them.

**Tree City USA:** John announced that Oriental's application for Tree City USA certification has been approved again this year. Thirty-one years strong.

### Tree Removals:

The budget amendment for the extraordinary tree removals was approved in November. The town has accepted TreeWise's bids for the removal of the sycamores and poplars on the high priority list. Those removals will begin "soon".

Lou suggested that the town get insurance certificates from all tree removal vendors. Diane confirmed that certificates are required by the town for all vendors.

Stephanie suggested adding Anthony Tindal Tree Service to the list of potential vendors.

The two camelias at 503 South Ave are ailing (one is virtually dead). Madeline expressed interest in having them. She offered that Landings Nursery has a tree spade that could remove them intact.

While not a direct Tree Board responsibility, there was some discussion about the complexities of sidewalk maintenance and street trees.

### 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.

502 South Ave new owners have requested 2 Yaupon hollies to replace the dead dogwood. They suggested that they could pay for these new trees.

1213 Lupton Road, Missy spoke to the property owner. They are not ready to make a decision at this time.

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. Janet and Missy identified a spot in the Recreation Park, next to the sandbox, that may be suitable. Janet picked up soil sample kits from the NC State Extension office in Bayboro, to aid in species selection. After further consideration, Madeline suggested that we put this project on hold until the inventory is completed – that has a higher priority for the use of Tree Board members' time right now. Postponed but not abandoned.

### Pruning Activities:

John reiterated that we need to be training young trees much sooner in their lifecycle. He is learning from the ISA courses he is taking, that most of the difficult pruning we are doing now is correcting problems that could have been avoided by early training.

John also observed that volunteer trees appear to be the source of frequent problems for the Tree Board. Removing some of these trees on town ROW will take special equipment and more money.

Other special pruning requests outside of area 1A include:

- Zone 1A: Midyette Street toward the boat ramp
- Zone 1B: More work is needed in the Recreation/Dog Park;
- Zone 1B: 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;
- Zone 2: The cypresses at the corner of Neuse Street & Factory need attention;
- Zone 2: 502 South Ave: The new owners of the Roe's House have removed most of the invasive privet hedge along the ROW on Neuse St Ext; but have requested more pruning of the trees there;
- Zone 2: Overhead clearance along Freemason is continuing, especially near Third in front of the Methodist Church, and the other side of Church Street;
- Zone 2: Third & Church: overhead clearance needed;
- Zone 3: Corner of Gilgo and Starboard Circle private limbs overhanging the ROW;
- Zone 3: 503 Ragan: owner requested lower limbs of live oaks pruned up for driveway clearance;
- Zone 3: 501 Ragan: owner requested additional crown lifting of live oaks;
- Zone 3: 1207 Lupton Drive: request that the Yaupon hollies on the ROW need pruning;
- Zone 3: The crepes around Brantley's need thinning and clearance pruning;
- Zone 3: Three young oaks at Vandemere and First need training.

Ordinance Amendments: Janet submitted the final version of the requested ordinance changes to Diane to include in the commissioners' packets for their next meeting. Janet and Pat offered to attend that meeting in case there are any questions. The latest addition to the changes pertained to the property owner's responsibility to maintain private landscape clearances over sidewalks and roadways.

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. John ordered a set of pamphlets from ISA about trees and construction that could be offered with permits. Lou suggested a regular 'column' of tree-related information to be posted to the town's Facebook page and Towndock.net. Janet offered to also go over some of Bob's old press releases for topics.

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.

### **New Business:**

John announced that he had heard that there is grant money available for trees in state-run programs. The Board had been discussing the possibility of establishing a new park, possibly on the parcel at Silverbrook & Broad where we planted the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary tree last April. Lou suggested that we put together a proposal for commissioner consideration before applying for a grant.

Janet requested the town purchase 2 walking desks for Board members to use to facilitate the inventory work. The 2 harnesses would be under \$75 total. (After the meeting, the harnesses were ordered, and delivered by Friday.)

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 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.