

Parks and Recreation Meeting

5/5/2026

Attendance:

Alice Fannigan

Butch Rasmussen

Vicki Rasmussen

Barbara Miller

Eileen Price

Commissioners: Paul Jordan & Don McGuire

- Bonnie Crosser came to talk about Croaker Fest, July 4th. Revolutionary War theme

Parks and Rec will be responsible for the slide and bronco ride. Story telling @ 10:00 AM

- Barb will see if we have two X-Large shirts for the commissioner liaisons.
- Vicki, Eileen, and Kim are up for renewal. We have all submitted our applications
- Diane Miller wants Board members to man a table at next Tuesday's town board meeting to provide awareness of the volunteer opportunities.
- Lupton Park has new flowers, raked, cleaned up. A chair has been donated, and someone will paint them.
- Basketball net at Lupton? Or where could we put one. There are two in storage that were donated.
- Rec Park ditch has been cleaned out
- Dog Park mulch is working well- more level, less mud
- Bill Deck has repainted the picnic table at Lou Mac, and (maybe?) he repaired one of the boards.
- Commissioners have had complaints about NC Cycle- crowds, traffic, poor tipping, etc. It's every three years, and it brings people back, so an overall positive in our opinion, but it would be prudent to let the NC Cycle folks aware of some issues that can be addressed.

- Parks and Rec is not participating in Dancing in the Park. Don't know if Pamlico Arts is doing it.
- Azalea bushes need to be trimmed at Lupton Park. Barb will ask the Tree Board for advice, so we make sure they're done correctly.
- Lou Mac Park dog fountain is not working- Barb will look into it.
- May cleanup May 15th 10:00 AM- Lupton Park
- Unsafe Pickleball Courts? Carolina SportsCourts will come out to evaluate the pickleball courts at no cost. If they are found to be unsafe, the courts will need to be closed to the public until the problems are addressed.
- Fall Festival planning once we have our budget for next fiscal year(June)

Commissioner Jordon discussed creating a comprehensive park plan and probably need to revise Chapter N in order to apply for F Grants provided by the state. This project will take several years to complete for the future of our parks.

Adjourn @ 4:03

HWAC Meeting April 9, 2026

Attendees: Pat Stockwell, Bobby Brewer, Breena Litzenberger, Don McGuire, Manager Miller, Paul Jordan, Jim Kellenberger

1. Breena makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting, Bobby seconds and it passes
2. Manager's Report:
 - a. Bid response from Bobby Prescott at \$45,000. The manager's concern is that if we reject it it may come back higher the next round. Bobby Prescott said they could get to it in July and it would take them one week. They can do it from the land. Next steps are the manager gets a contract together. Jim Kellenberger makes a motion to forward the bid to the board with a recommendation to accept it. Pat Stockwell seconded. Unanimously votes to pass. Manager Miller will present this to the board on Tuesday at the upcoming meeting. She will also draft a contract and run it by the lawyer, after which there will be a pre-construction meeting to go over scope and timing. Breena makes a motion to ask the board to pre-approve a 10% (\$4,500) contingency of the total in case of change requests, Pat Stockwell seconds. It passes unanimously. Bobby will call Prescott to get on their schedule so we are not pushed out any further on the schedule.
 - b. Bobby Brewer will send manager Miller the photos and video of the damage.
 - c. There's an inflatable RIB that is sinking and has been stripped. If we get it out of the water, Public Works will dispose of it. Bobby is going to drag it out tomorrow with the help of Public Works.
3. Hodges Street: Grant is still in progress, we should know by June
4. Don McGuire: Fishing dock safety issue during the Sailpac when one piece of the railing is removed and the sailors jump into the water to get to the boats. Commissioner McGuire is going to speak with Jim Edwards to see what his solution is. We will bring the topic back up once McGuire speaks to Edwards.
5. TD 2:
 - a. We have someone overstaying. Chief Wichrowski has been instructed to pick up the notice that will be put on the boat.
 - b. There is a failing bulkhead over there, as well. We may need a diver to come and look at that and the pilings. We would like to order an inspection of Town Dock 2 going. Manager Miller will call and schedule that, she will ask them to inspect the pilings on the dinghy dock/pier, as well.
6. John Bond Beach: Manager Miller is still working on the paperwork.
7. Grants: We got through the BUILD grant, but manager miller is in budget so grants are paused, until the budget is approved by the commissioners. Pat Stockwell will check with Emily about the deadline for the grant she was working on.
8. There is a grant writing seminar at AI fest at the community college April 16th.
9. Jim K makes a motion to adjourn at 4:51, Breena seconds unanimously passed.



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

April 30, 2026

DURATION

09:06 AM through 10:06 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.), Chris Moffat (com.), Lou Ostendorf (com.), Madeline Sutter (em.), Missy Tenhet – **NO QUORUM**

Without a quorum, these minutes simply record discussions.

John announced that Cathy Washburn has left the board. We're all very sorry to see her go. Since Pat and Joan Allen have been essentially sharing a spot, Joan could be officially recognized after she finishes her current semester. All members should consider themselves 'recruiters.' Anyone who thinks they MAY be interested should join us for Tuesday pruning sessions to see if they like, and can commit to the work.

Tree Removals:

John reported that it does not look like we will be able to address all of the high-risk trees on our list by the June 30th deadline – there aren't enough vendors available with requisite skills. John said he would reach out to a few more contractors this week. There are still at least 14 trees on the "Trees of Concern" list, ... and growing.

The dying Fringe tree in the Lupton Park was removed by Tree Board members last week.

Planting:

Arbor Day Planting: Kudos to all the Tree Board members who ensured a great Arbor Day celebration! on April 18th the Town celebrated Arbor Day with our annual tree planting at 309 High Street. John picked up two freshly dug crepe myrtles from Worthington Nursery in Greenville. The root balls were about 500 pounds; so, he secured the loan of a forklift from Zimmerman Marine to lift the trees from the trailer and position them into the planting holes. He had the foresight to direct the board members to pre-dig the planting holes and fully plant one of the two trees before the event so that folks coming to the celebration didn't stand in the sun watching us dig two huge holes. The event was fairly attended, thanks in part to a series of directional lawn signs procured from Broad Street Signage, and to several press releases that actually did appear in local media. The NC Forest Service presented the Town of Oriental with its 31st TreeCity USA award. John updated the road signs with the new stickers.

John was approached by the owner of 207 Neuse Street for consideration of some street trees. Several substantial trees on private property there had been removed last year. There is a crepe myrtle in the town ROW at the far edge of this property, but plenty of room for up to three more. There are overhead wires

running the entire length – we must be careful to select varieties that will peacefully coexist. Janet suggested that we wait to see what color is the existing crepe myrtle before making any decisions before the spring planting season next year.

502 South Ave have asked that the dying dogwood tree adjacent to their property, be left in place a little while longer. The tree is struggling to survive. The owners have expressed interest in possibly replacing that 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.

On Ragan Road, where the 4 cottonwood trees are scheduled to be removed shortly, John suggested that we consider planting live oaks in their places to follow the plan on the rest of the street in that area.

Pruning Activities:

The Tree Board crews have concentrated on the parks ahead of special events there. But will be moving to John's list of 'new' trees for training, before spending the rest of the year in pruning area 2.

- Zone 1A: Midyette Street toward the boat ramp – remove the dead cypress;
- All Zones: John is gathering a list of young trees that need to be trained NOW before they become tomorrow's problem trees;
- Zone 2: This area will be the Board's focus for the rest of the year;
- Zone 3: Corner of Gilgo and Starboard Circle private limbs overhanging the ROW;
- Zone 3: 501 Ragan: owner requested additional crown lifting of live oaks;
- Zone 3: 503 Ragan: owner requested lower limbs of live oaks pruned up for driveway clearance;
- 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 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.

New Business:

Madeline Sutter presented a letter (see attached) to the Tree Board requesting consideration for incorporating groups of trees in the Town landscape rather than just individual trees, using such groupings as educational tools for citizens and school groups, and creating a policy for citizen 'gifting' of trees that become public trees. She also suggested that the Board abandon the idea of a park at the corner of Broad and Silverbrook.

Discussions that followed considered that, although the Broad/Silverbrook site, which is the first impression as travelers come into town, desperately needs beautifying, the very poor soils, lack of parking options, traffic concerns, and the eyesore of the pump station, make this site less than ideal for a park. In fact, the town should even consider other options for a better "Welcome to Oriental" sign location; the pump station is not a good 'welcome.' The idea to open up a park-like connector path between communities off of Whitaker Creek and the Recreation Park off Straight Road, that would make the park accessible by golf cart, was also discussed. Missy pointed out that, while the Tree Board would certainly participate in the planning and execution of any of these projects, other town boards retain the authority to make those decisions.

Several members brought up the fact that many of the trees in the Recreation Park are ailing. Very poor soils and extensive use of herbicides are strongly suspected. Chris offered to verify the ownership and management agreements with the county so that we can target herbicide education. Janet offered to do soil testing in the key areas of the park to guide future replacement tree selections.

On May 12th the Town Commissioners are hosting a Volunteer Fair, where each of the volunteer boards in town present the public with what they do, and can recruit participation. The Tree Board will have a table at that event. Board members who can participate should arrive at town hall at 5:00PM for set up.

Croaker Fest is July 3-5 this year. It is the nation's 250th birthday. Janet ***insisted*** that the Tree Board have a float in the parade on the 4th. John offered the use of his mini-truck. He said he would ask Bob Miller for the Tree Board banner. Madeline donated one of her TreeCity USA banners. More discussion is needed about decorating the truck and what, if anything, we want to toss out to the spectators (seed packs perhaps?).

NEXT MEETING

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, May 26, 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:

May 12, 2026 – Oriental Town Volunteer Fair

May 26, 2026 – Tree Board Meeting

June 30, 2026 – Tree Board Meeting

July 3-5, 2026 – Croakerfest & USA 250th birthday bash!