

**ORIENTAL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**MAY 14, 2024**

1. The committee discussed our sad loss of our member Janice Coakley. Eileen Price has stepped up to fill the secretary position.
2. GoogleMeet was used, but no one from the town participated. Announcements went out on Facebook/Oriental and Ladies of Oriental. Perhaps we will advertise it on the town website under Parks and Recreation section.
3. Committee members as well as Commissioner Crosser were thanked for all their hard work at Lupton Park. The members "fluffed mulch" and Commissioner Crosser took it upon herself to plant new flowers.
4. The new sign is up at the Recreation/Dog Park. Invoice was submitted for payment.
5. New T-Shirts were ordered for the newest committee members.
6. As soon as the new T-Shirts arrive, the committee will pose for a photo with the new Park sign along with Commissioner Crosser as it was her efforts that got the sign in the first place.
7. The horseshoe team has been contacted and informed that we now have the material to upgrade the horseshoe pits for tournament play. Hopefully, that team will join us in doing the actual work.
8. A new net for the Lupton tennis court will be ordered and installed.
9. Vicki will price out soccer field equipment that needs to be replaced, upgraded, etc. and get back to the committee next meeting.
10. Pickleball update was given by Commissioner Crosser. She has marked out the field, developed a layout for the tournament size pickleball courts to be built in the Recreation Park. Eileen Price has volunteered to assist with this project. By the start of next fiscal year, the team should be ready to retain someone to draw up the plans and layout. Commissioner Crosser is still looking into grant opportunities.
11. Discussed the felling of the big Oak in Lou-Mac. Vicki told the committee that she presented their wishes to the Board of Commissioners to replace the tree with a similar one. They wanted to know if it was going to happen. Commissioner Crosser will follow up for us.
12. Commissioner Crosser brought up that the backboard at the tennis court in Lupton needs to be replaced. It is broke again. Vicki will look into.
13. Parks and Recreation will supply volunteers at the upcoming Kid's Park during Croaker Fest. The timing is 11AM-3PM on July 6. On July 4, the committee will bury gold doubloons in the sand box at the Recreation Park for the kids to find on July 5.
14. It was discussed that we should have a kid event at the Recreation Park in the Fall to highlight first responders. Have the K-9 force there to demonstrate their work, a fire truck (maybe shooting water from the big fire hose), an ambulance, police car. It will be discussed further.
15. Our next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 needs to be moved. Vicki has Jury duty as well as a doctor appointment. Committee will review their calendars and let Vicki know what would work for them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Rasmussen  
Oriental Parks and Recreation Committee

# Minutes

## Oriental Tree Board Meeting

<b>DATE</b>	April 23, 2024
<b>DURATION</b>	9:06 AM through 10:27 AM
<b>MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY</b>	John Deaton, chair

### IN ATTENDANCE

John Deaton (chair), Janet Chinaea, Ken King (em), Bob Miller, Cathy Washburn

### CHAIR REPORT - OLD BUSINESS

**Tree Inventory Project** - Janet reported that she and Cathy have completed the list of properties in the Oriental Town jurisdiction. Janet moved this data into an MSAccess database and created the first reports. The Board members discussed potential ways to match the property data to an actual survey of all the trees in the town ROW for each property. Ken pointed out that there are a number of trees that were planted by the state highway department, over the bridge, under an agreement that the town of Oriental would maintain them – they need to be added to the database. As soon as the survey forms are finalized and printed, the Board members will break into teams, and use the pruning down-time to conduct the surveys. The new inventory data will be invaluable for planning maintenance, tree replacements, and budgeting.

**Arbor Day Celebration** – John reported that Oriental resident, Lyn Rae, contacted Diane with concerns about the new tree planted at the NC Wildlife ramp blocking his view in the future. John spoke to Mr Rae and suggested that, from his second-floor condo unit, the new tree will not be evident for many years; but that there are other trees in the area that could be pruned in ways that could improve his current view. Options to address Mr Rae's concerns are still being considered.

### Planting:

The location for the two (2) red oaks for 2107 White Farm Road has been marked, and 811 has been notified. The trees have not yet been delivered.

The Tree Board planted two Crepe Myrtles at 1103 Neuse Drive on April 3<sup>rd</sup> after the pruning demonstration. The strong wind storm last week made the newly planted trees lean. (After this meeting, the members installed support stakes to these two trees.)

Harborside Garden Center donated a Nuttall Oak to the town, to be planted at 400 Ragan to replace dead Crepe Myrtles. This tree will be delivered with the oaks for White Farm Road.

The unofficial 'Oriental Beautification Committee' contacted John requesting that the Board plant several Hollies or some type of shrub background between the "Welcome to Oriental" sign and the chain-link fence surrounding the lift station at the corner of Broad and Silverbrook. Board discussion included requiring the "Committee" to prepare the planting bed and maintain it; making sure there is adequate space between the fence and the planting area for a commercial mower to access it; selecting shrubs that will stay within that boundary; consideration of the fact that the fence has been used in the past for displaying banners announcing special events in town. Further discussion with the "Committee" is required before any action is taken.

### Pruning Activities

The Tree Board is now working in pruning area three. However, the Crepe Myrtles along Broad Street in area 1a are still in need of special effort.

The Board still does not have a date for starting the removals of the trees and large limbs at Lou Mac Park, Neuse Street, South Avenue, and Lupton Park. Several of these trees require “make-safe” pruning by Duke Energy before they can be removed. Bob confirmed with Duke that Oriental is not scheduled for general line clearance pruning until next year; but that our “make-safe” requests will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Janet had suggested at the last meeting that perhaps the wood from some of the large tree removals could be offered to local artisans. Ken found documentary evidence that the Lou Mac Park water oak was planted in the 1920's! This makes the removal and the wood more interesting. Bob volunteered to draft a press release to go out when we have a date for those removals.

Janet related a story regarding the tree removal planned for 207 Neuse Street. Ms Hott, the owner of the property, told Janet that the tree slated for removal was one of three her father had planted in honor of his three children. Three pines that were just removed from her backyard were originally seedlings that Weyerhaeuser gave to school children when she was a young girl. Our resident dendrologist, Professor Bob Miller, confirmed that the tree rings indicated 40–50-year-old trees.

The crabapple trees surrounding the Oriental United Methodist Church parking lot have largely expired. The church has asked the town to remove them. They had been planted by the town on church property under a grant program many years ago. Since they are not on town property, several Tree Board members volunteered to help remove them.

The Board discussed the row of Crepe Myrtles along First Street that Duke Energy topped, at the property owner's request, several weeks ago. Bob reported to Duke Energy that their crew left their debris behind.

#### **Town Trees Near Construction Sites:**

The construction work at 504 North Street is now completed. The Tree Board members will begin pruning out the limbs from the live oaks that were damaged by construction crews. Only time will tell if the root damage will prove fatal.

On Windward, Cathy reported that a third house has been started, and a fourth has been flagged to start. There is construction damage to the roots and canopy of the existing town trees. The protective fencing around the town trees at the 3<sup>rd</sup> house is damaged again.

The construction sites at 208 and 300 Neuse Street also need to be monitored for construction damage to town trees.

**Tree Watering** – Generally new trees need to be watered for their first full year whenever there has been less than 1” of rain in the previous week. Since the root ball dries faster than the surrounding soil, water must be applied directly to the root ball. The adjacent lot owners should assume the responsibility for trees planted in their ROW. Tree Board members will water trees planted in common areas like parks and town properties. This year the following trees need to be watered by the Tree Board:

- Neuse Street Extension live oak
- Net House trees
- Crepe Myrtles by the town sign at Broad & Silverbrook
- Holly at the end of the recreation field parking lot
- Live oak at the NC Wildlife ramp sign (Missy volunteered to monitor this one)

The Yaupon holly at 403 South Avenue, the Crepe Myrtles at 1103 Neuse Drive, and the Crepe Myrtles at 300 Neuse Street will be watered by the property owners for the first year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 9:00 AM** in the town hall main conference room. Pruning crews meet at the town Hall most Tuesdays throughout the year.

# **Water Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

## **May 23, 2024**

### **Town of Oriental Water System Improvements Project**

Project Kick-Off Meeting with TRC

#### Attendees:

Marla Ashworth (TRC Grant Writing and Administration)

Ethan Gartin, PE (TRC Project Manager)

C. Tyrus Clayton, PE (TRC Principal in Charge)

Steve Sandy, PE, PHD (TRC Chief Engineer)

Danny Meadows (TRC Client Manager)

Diane Miller, Oriental Town Manager

Tammy Cox, Oriental Deputy Finance

Daniel Early, Oriental ORC

Allen Price, Oriental Town Commissioner

Bonnie Crosser, Oriental Town Commissioner

Steve Drew, Water Board Member

Jeff Blackwell, Resident

Focus of the meeting to review, at a high level, current water system issues. Discuss the preliminary project scope - asset inventory and mapping. Funding discussion for DEQ SRP funding. Establish next steps.

1. Oriental team share current issues regarding the water distribution systems: valve replacements, line looping of dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs, possible pressure at fire hydrants, possible addition of booster station to service Dolphin Point.
2. Acknowledged mapping of the current distribution as a priority. Provided paper maps to TRC.
3. Discussed Life of Generators. Generator new on Well 2. Generator "old" on Plant and Well 1. Replace costs estimated \$65K.
4. Discuss issue at Dolphin point - very low water pressure, growth area of the Town (20+ new homes in various stages of building). Anticipate growth on White Farm Road. Will come into play when predicting growth and modeling for growth.
5. Determined a phase approach project. First Phase: preliminary scope and sizing (mapping) of the water distribution system.
6. Share Link - method for distribution of documents.
7. Manager Miller will be the single point of communications with TRC and Bonnie Crosser will be cc on all correspondence. Ethan Gartin will be the single point of communications with Oriental and will cc as required of the TRC team.
8. Determined TRC with initially manage (Marla Ashworth) the Grant funding process until the Oriental financial staff is in a position to take the lead.

Action Items:

1. Oriental (Daniel Early) obtain Fire Department testing information of fire (field) hydrants.
2. TRC to provide Terms and Conditions. Received 5/24/24.
3. Oriental (Manager Miller) determine water easements. Provide mapping information.
4. TRC (Marla Ashworth) provide recommendations on General Ledger specific accounts required for the project.
5. May 30, 2024 Preliminary Scope and Sizing Contract will be completed by TRC.