

Water Advisory Board – Project Update Agenda

1. Water Valve Project (TRC)

- Status update on project implementation.
- Confirm that field work has commenced and provide current progress.

2. White Farm Road Booster Station Project (TRC)

- Design completion status.
- Permitting submission status.

3. Booster Station Construction Options Analysis (TRC)

Objective: Develop a comprehensive cost, schedule, and benefit comparison of constructing the booster station on-site versus utilizing the EFI prefabricated solution. This analysis will enable the Board to evaluate projected costs, timelines, and overall project value.

Provide the following information:

A. Project Cost and Schedule Estimates

- Estimated total cost and project duration for a complete on-site construction project (original contracted construction duration: **26 weeks**).
- Estimated cost and project duration for installation of the EFI prefabricated booster station, including site connections.

B. Project Management Costs

- Confirm the estimated cost for TRC to manage on-site construction (original contracted amount: **\$29,300**).
- Provide the estimated cost for TRC to manage installation of the EFI prefabricated solution.

C. Permitting Impacts

- Determine whether selecting the EFI prefabricated option would require new permit applications or modifications to existing permits.
- If additional permitting is required, provide the estimated cost and anticipated schedule impact.

4. EFI Prefabricated Booster Station Discussion (Roger)

- Current estimated cost for prefabrication and delivery to Oriental: **approximately \$300,000 - \$350,000** (April 1, 2026 estimate).
- Current estimated lead time from order placement to delivery: **approximately one year**.

5. Water System Rehabilitation Project (Daniel and TRC)

- Review and discuss the updated project prioritization list.

6. Communication Process Improvements with TRC (Roger)

TRC has agreed to implement several process improvements to enhance communication and provide the Water Advisory Board with more timely and transparent project information.

- TRC will acknowledge receipt of Board emails promptly. When an immediate response is not possible, TRC will provide an estimated timeframe for follow-up.
- TRC will provide written status updates for each active project by the **last Friday of each month**, allowing sufficient time for the Board to review the information and request clarification before the monthly Water Advisory Board meeting held on the **first Wednesday** of each month. This schedule will also support timely reporting to the Board of Commissioners at its **second Tuesday** meeting.
- Following each monthly Water Advisory Board meeting, Roger will provide TRC with a summary of agreed-upon action items, project progress, and expected deliverables to ensure continued alignment.
- TRC will notify the Board as soon as it becomes apparent that a project milestone or deliverable is likely to be delayed, allowing the Water Advisory Board, Town Management, and the Board of Commissioners to adjust expectations as appropriate.

7. Board Member Questions and Discussion

- Open discussion, questions, and additional business

End of Meeting

Parks and Recreation Meeting

8/4/2026

3:00 PM

Attendance:

Alice Fannigan

Barbara Miller

Eileen Price

Steve Price

Commissioners: Don McGuire, Paul Jordan

Should we do a Fall Festival, and/or should it be moved to another park?

Scrap the Fall Festival, hold back this year and focus on improvements to the parks. We can plan for something in 2027

We voted to not do Fall Festival in 2026.

We need to recruit new members(a big reason for not doing Fall Festival)

We'll have a social to recruit new members September 11th in the afternoon,

probably at Alice's house. Meanwhile, we'll all talk to friends and neighbors to try to get new people.

BBQ Grill at Lupton is rotted out. We are going to remove it and if no one complains, we will not replace it (We don't know if anyone uses it).

Barb will continue to inventory and see if we need to replace equipment.

Spirit of Christmas- cookie exchange Thursday December 10th? We'll coordinate with Tourism Board and the Christmas Tree Lighting at Lou Mac Park.

Next meeting we will discuss inventory and review a draft of our ordinance

Adjourn @ 4:19

Tourism & Economic Development Board Report

Town of Oriental Board of Commissioners

August 2026

The Tourism & Economic Development Board has officially transitioned from organizational planning into active implementation. Since our inaugural meeting, the Board has focused on establishing priorities, identifying opportunities, and building partnerships that will strengthen Oriental's tourism economy while enhancing quality of life for residents.

Organizational Progress

- Established Board leadership and committee structure.
- Created working subcommittees to allow projects to move forward efficiently.
- Began development of a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan to guide future initiatives and establish measurable goals.

Marketing & Tourism Promotion

The Board recognizes that increasing visitor awareness is one of the most effective ways to support local businesses and generate additional tax revenue.

Current initiatives include:

- Evaluating opportunities to expand Oriental's regional and statewide tourism marketing.
- Developing stronger relationships with VisitNC and Regional TDA.
- Pursuing earned media opportunities through travel writers, publications, influencers, and television programming.
- Encouraging broader promotion of Oriental events through statewide tourism calendars and media outlets.

Website & Digital Presence

A dedicated tourism website channel within the Town Website remains one of the Board's top priorities.

Current efforts include:

- Reviewing concepts for a visitor-focused website.
- Coordinating with existing Town resources to complement—not duplicate.
- Identifying opportunities to improve Oriental's online visibility and visitor planning experience.

Beautification & Visitor Experience

The Board continues discussions regarding projects that improve both resident pride and visitor experience, including:

- Enhanced visitor information resources.
- Public information displays.
- Opportunities to coordinate with other Town boards and volunteer organizations where appropriate like the Oriental Business Association

Community Collaboration

The Board is committed to working collaboratively with:

- Town staff
- Town Council

- Local businesses
- Community organizations

Several initiatives may ultimately be better suited for collaboration or leadership by existing committees, allowing the Tourism & Economic Development Board to remain focused on destination marketing and economic development.

Economic Impact

Tourism continues to be a significant economic driver for Oriental.

According to Visit North Carolina's most recent economic impact study:

- Visitors spent **\$37.51 million** in Pamlico County during 2024.
- generated approximately **\$2.27 million in local tax revenue**

These figures reinforce the importance of continued investment in tourism promotion and strategic economic development initiatives.

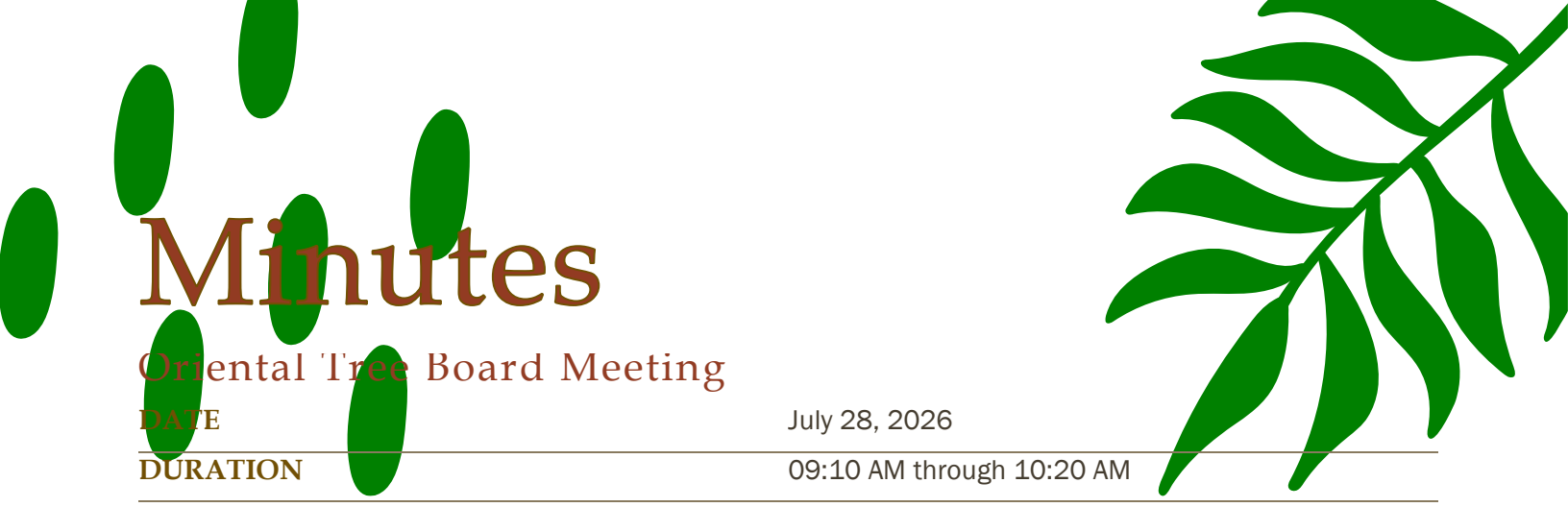
Looking Ahead

The Board's near-term priorities include:

- Finalizing the Board Mission Statement.
- Completing a practical Strategic Plan with achievable goals.
- Advancing the tourism website initiative.
- Expanding statewide and regional marketing partnerships.
- Pursuing additional media exposure for Oriental.
- Supporting promotion of major community events.
- Continuing to identify projects that enhance Oriental as a premier coastal destination while preserving the character that makes our community unique.

The Tourism & Economic Development Board appreciates the continued support of the Town Commissioners and looks forward to providing regular updates as projects progress.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Kim Bell



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

July 28, 2026

DURATION

09:10 AM through 10:20 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Joan Allen, Pat Allen, Phil Borders, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinaea (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Anne Frederick, Lou Ostendorff (com.), Diane Miller (mgr.), Missy Tenhet

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance: John asked Diane what insurance coverage the town has on the Tree Board's activities. She confirmed that the town carries liability insurance in case our work causes damage to town or private property. Therefore, medical insurance is up to each volunteer to provide for themselves.

Bridge Embankment: Last week the Tree Board did some clearance pruning on the trees on the Broad Street bridge embankment. The steep abutments are planted with prostrate junipers, weeds, and vines. The Board asked Diane to arrange to have that area mowed on a regular basis to keep that area clear. Missy brought up the fact that the Episcopal Church sign obscures traffic entering Broad Street from New Street. John said that he mentioned it to the Episcopal Church rector, who is amenable to having it moved.

Safety Gear: Janet announced that the "TREE WORK AHEAD" road signs have been delivered, and the safety vests are at the printer. This gear will be useful all the time, but especially when the Tree Board is working on the live oaks on the other side of the bridge later next month. Diane also suggested we can arrange to have a police vehicle parked behind us on the bridge when we are there. In light of our insurance coverage limitation, this seemed prudent.

Rain-Soaked Earth: Diane reminded everyone that major rains are still in the forecast, and the soil is saturated already. Even healthy trees can uproot in these conditions. Be vigilant.

Landscape Ordinance Compliance: Missy asked if the Tree Board can require the owner of the ice machine lot on Broad Street to replace the dead dogwood tree on that lot. Diane said that the Growth Ordinance only requires that the lot owners provide landscaping, as approved by the Planning Board, in consultation with the Tree Board, for one year.

New Town Service Access: Diane announced that the trees are now being cleared from the town lot next to the ice machine lot on Broad in order to put in a pass-through access for town service and emergency vehicles. The new access will be fenced and have planting to obscure the space.

County Extension Office Consult: John spoke to Daniel Simpson, the Pamlico County Extension Agent, about herbicides. Daniel confirmed that true glyphosate generally only kills new growth. The newer glyphosate-alternatives on the other hand, are much more deadly to trees. Missy added that the herbicides don't work at all below 70°, so don't waste your money. The Tree Board has asked that the town not spray with ANY herbicide. Mulch is a much better alternative around the trees. Diane reminded the Board that mulch left in piles or spread too thickly can spontaneously combust. Daniel Simpson also confirmed that it is not wise to plant a new tree where an old one has died because the decay fungus will still be in the ground.

St Simon's Island Tree Spirits: Pat got a request from a citizen to look into creating a St. Simon's Island-style Tree Spirits program in Oriental. This is where a specialized artist carves spirit faces into the bark of the tree. The tree is apparently not harmed by this carving. The faces can represent local historical figures as an extension of the History Center. The Board voted unanimously NOT to allow any town tree to be part of such a program; but private property owners are welcome to consider it for their own trees.

Inventory Software: Janet researched available software packages that could help the town manage the tree inventory. She found a package, called "Urban Forest Metrix" by Field Truth Inc, that appears to fit the town's needs. But it is not clear from their website whether there is a fee for their phone app, or if multiple licenses would be required. John mentioned that there are many grants available for software purchases. Diane and Lou announced that they have an agreement with the county now to upload the town's water and sewer data to a layer on the county GIS. Since the UFM also can export a layer to the GIS, this could be a great match. However, no matter what, if any, software we use, the inventory still requires boots on the ground. Missy suggested that we not wait for any decision regarding software, and devote more time now to doing the manual inventory. The current database, created by Janet, can already provide us the information we need to adjust pruning zones, target young and problem trees, and support budget requests. Missy also suggested that we could be doing inventory while we prune each week. Janet offered to conduct another training class on how to do the inventory. The Board agreed to meet at town hall on Friday, July 31st @ noon, for that training.

Arbor Day Move: Janet recommended that the Tree Board consider changing our annual Arbor Day celebration to the fall. This is a much better time of year to do any planting for the health of the trees. Diane said that, ironically, the legislature is considering a change to the fall also. Diane also reminded us that the Arbor Day Foundation and the town ordinances already allow for us to change the date for Arbor Day celebrations to fit our needs. Follow up discussion needed.

Private Tree Requests: Board members often get requests from citizens for consultation on their private trees. John reminded the Board that, while we have significant experience and training on the Board, we are not certified arborists. Whatever work a member chooses to do for a private citizen is expressly NOT as a Tree Board representative.

NEXT MEETING

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, August 25, 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:

October 2-3, 2026 – Ol' Front Porch Music Festival

December 10-12, 2026 – Spirit of Christmas

Attachment: Activity List as of July 29, 2026

Activity List

PLANTING

- 207 Neuse Street: Tabled until the homeowner weighs in on the plan to wait to see what color is the existing crepe myrtle before making any decisions for the next planting season;
- 209 Neuse Street: A redbud tree in the ROW failed – only a stump remains. The owner requested the stump removed and a live oak planted there instead;
- 502 South Ave: The owners have expressed interest in possibly replacing the dying dogwood 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;
- 803 South Ave: The very large live oaks on the Oriental waterfront here are failing; root girdling appears to be a significant contributor. John said he would approach the owner with the Board's suggestion that the town plant new live oaks this planting season in between the failing trees.

PRUNING

- All Zones: John has a list of young trees that need to be trained NOW before they become tomorrow's problem trees;
- Zone 1:
 - Windmill Point End of the Oriental Bridge: there are ten live oak trees that the Tree Board planted over a decade ago, on the embankments on either side of the bridge, on land owned by the NCDOT. These trees are now beginning to encroach on the roadway. Under a maintenance agreement with NCDOT, the Tree Board will be pruning those trees;
 - The crepes around Brantley's need thinning and clearance pruning;
- Zone 2:
 - Church & Broad: stop sign obscured (this can be improved but the tree will always be in the way);
 - ~~Town Hall: Chinese Pistache obstructing parking lot entrance and historic signage;~~ **DONE 07/28/2026**
- Zone 3:
 - 100 Starboard Circle: road easement clearing and private tree work coordination;
 - 101 Starboard Circle, corner of Gilgo and Starboard Circle: private limbs overhanging the ROW;
 - 901 South Ave: owner requested additional crown lifting for driveway clearance;
 - Ragan Road Baptist Church: stop sign needs clearing;
 - 501 Ragan: owner requested additional crown lifting of live oaks;
 - 503 Ragan: owner requested additional crown lifting for driveway clearance;

- 1207 Lupton Drive: request that the Yaupon hollies on the ROW need pruning;
- ~~100 Pineview (Along Gilgo at Seavista): crape myrtles overtaken by vines;~~ **DONE 07/28/2026**

REMOVALS

Contract Services Needed

- Throughout Town: there are numerous pine limbs hanging over and dropping into the ROW. The estimate based on an hourly rate of \$200/hour is about \$800;
- 500 South Avenue: corner of King and South Ave, the live oak at the corner shows signs of branch tip failure and a considerable amount of bark loss at the base. Sounding shows much of the bark around the base has separated from the trunk and there is active fungus growth on the exposed wood. Continue to monitor. There does not appear to be an immediate need to remove;
- 200 Neuse Street: willow oak on the corner of South Ave and Neuse Street has limbs hitting the house and power lines; someone has been heading back some limbs, but more removals are needed. This is a town tree, and some work can be done by the Board; but there may be some concern about working around the power lines;
- Town Hall: Pecan Tree at the inside corner of the parking lot; the top of the tree has been removed and tree is degrading. Estimate to remove \$1000;
- Church and Broad Streets: There is a live oak that is fully involved with the power wire running into the Oriental Inn. The power feed will need to be dropped to safely work in this tree. Due to lack of property markers, the ownership of this tree is in question;
- 602 Church Street: a hanger behind/beside the Captain's Quarters;
- Second Ave & High Street: large pine with large broken limbs hanging. Hangers need removal;
- Seafarer & Whitaker Point Roads: large hanger over the ROW;
- 619 Ragan Road: there are four cottonwood trees that are in poor condition; one tree has started to drop limbs in the road. Removal and grinding of stumps have been quoted by Tree Wise at \$3600. The trees have flushed out this year, and are looking OK except for some dead tops. Trees need to be monitored;
- Station 19 Firehouse: the live oak closest to the west side of the parking lot has not flushed out any leaves and appears dead;
- Recreation Park: there is a failing cypress in the north corner of the soccer field, and a dead cypress along the fence line bordering White Farm Road. Given their locations, it is believed these trees offer little risk; but removal will be needed at some point. Estimate to remove the tree in the soccer field is \$750;
- Dolphin Point: While there are numerous trees hanging over the road, given enough time and energy, most of the lower limbs, predominately oaks, can be handled by the Tree Board. The trees that are beyond the current capabilities of the Tree Board are mostly pines with large limbs that originate high in the tree or are inaccessible from the ground. Estimate to remove \$1000.

Private Tree Action Needed

- 403 Neuse Street: large dead pecan; this tree was scheduled for contract pruning on July 23rd to remove limbs overhanging the town ROW; but an alternate date is pending.
- 1002 Neuse Street – Dying pecan beside John Bond Beach; tree is flushing out, somewhat. This tree sits back from the road, and does not appear that it would fall into public property; the tree posed more of a threat to the power line. The tree should be monitored and the owner made aware of the potential liability.
- 501 Mildred Street: a dying willow oak next to the stop sign; Diane said she would send a letter to the owner for removal. American Tree did supply an estimate for this removal.
- 101 Starboard Circle: a dead pine next to the stop sign; American Tree is scheduled to remove this tree on July 29th.
- 1413 Seafarer Road – While inspecting the property for a building permit, John noted several dead trees, and alerted the owner of the concern to the ROW; two trees were later removed; but the last tree, closest to the road was still standing; John will alert Diane to send a letter.

Other

- The Tree Board will remove the three dead cedars on the corner of Factory and Main.