

8/14/2025 HWAC Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Bobby, Jim K., Jim B., Don Maguire, Emily Fritz Pat Stockwell and Liaison
Commissioner Litzenberger, Town Manager – Diane Miller

Start Time: 4:05

1. Approval of last meeting minutes: Jim K. Made a motion to approve last two minutes and Pat seconded, unanimous in favor.
2. Manager's Report:
 - Cahoon Contract: Signed contract was sent and then resent this week. We do not know of a schedule, but Manager Miller is touching base with them.
 - Dredging: We have paid Sea Harbor for Spoils lease, we have paid the initial 1/3 to King and we had a change order for \$6,000 to repair washed out roads to the site. Progress is moving forward
 - Hodges Street: we did not get the engineering grant that we had applied for. Manager Miller is looking into other avenues and focusing on mitigation.
 - Town is doing storm prep, PW is trying to open catch basins, and prepping for the possible (Erin) storm that is in Atlantic. Volunteers can sign a waiver to help with storm recovery/help.
 - HWAC will help by doing the following
 - The elevator at the net house needs to be locked up
 - All the flags need to be taken down
 - The life rings need to be removed, pump out hose and nets
 - Diane will send an email to all of us CC'ing Daniel to tell us when to mobilize
 - Anything we remove, we can bring to Town Hall and leave it here until the storm is over
3. Facility Check: Some tin cans have been shoved under the dock in one spot which is going to be challenging to get out. If you see someone doing maintenance on town facilities, we do have an ordinance to restrict that, so we can stop them if we see it happening.
 - a. The Drum are in, so there will be a lot of boats coming into town
 - b. Emily looked into removing the bricks and she has contacted people, but they were all on vacation - she is waiting to hear back from them
4. Whittaker Creek Dredging:
5. Chapter E
 - a. September workshop will address this ordinance with the board of commissioners
6. John Bond Beach: Pat needs Manager Miller to help after Labor Day to write the scope of the project so we can request the meeting
7. Living shoreline and erosion control: Jim K speaks highly of the early results
8. No commissioner comments

9. Jim B would like us all to think; How can we promote the use of the Town's waterfront facilities?
10. Bobby suggested to have a call to arms if there is a storm, after it passes, they can all go around to see what we can help with. The committee will be, somewhat, on call and whoever is out doing facility checks can lead the charge.
11. Jim K makes a motion to adjourn at 5:04, Pat seconds, unanimous

Next Meeting Sept. 11, 2025 4pm Townhall

RS

Breena Litzenberger



Minutes

Oriental Tree Board Meeting

DATE

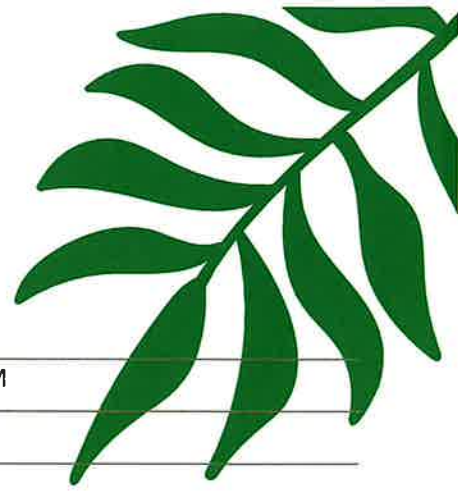
July 29, 2025

DURATION

09:03 AM through 09:55 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

John Deaton, chair



IN ATTENDANCE

Phil Borders, Stephanie Carperos, Janet Chinaea (sec'y), John Deaton (chair), Ken King (em), Allen Price (com.), Missy Tenhet, Alison DeWeese (guest)

Ordinance Amendments: Allison DeWeese, of the Oriental Planning Board, joined the Tree Board meeting to discuss proposed changes to the Tree Ordinance. Allison pointed out that the Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) includes language requiring the Planning Board to refer new/upgraded parking lot plans to the Tree Board for review, while the Planning Board retains final approval. So, the inclusion of the GMO citation in our ordinance is appropriate. As to the violation penalties, Allison suggested that the Tree Board formulate the true cost of replacing town trees damaged by lot owners or contractors, and incorporate that into any penalty identified in our ordinance. For instance, we need to consider the cost to remove the dead tree or damaged branches, and the costs to replace, plant, water, and otherwise maintain the new tree. She also suggested we develop a regular process for documenting damage to town trees that may not show in the health or survival of the tree for several years, as is the case with herbicide, root and other construction damage. Missy suggested that perhaps a subcommittee could be charged with monitoring damage so that the task does not fall to one person. John expressed his preference that all Board members should be vigilant – “If you see something, say something.” Missy suggested that TreeCityUSA likely has resources for the wording of violations sections in ordinances.

Recruitment: The Board is still one member short. John announced that two people have recently applied. Anyone interested in either being on the Tree Board, or just helping the Board with pruning, can contact the town hall, or any Tree Board member.

Tree Inventory Project: No inventory progress to report. The oppressive heat is negatively impacting this effort.

Duke Line Clearing: John was notified by Duke Energy that the main transmission lines in Oriental are scheduled for line clearing this year. No specific date was given. Janet offered to craft a press release to alert town residents.

Tree Removals:

Much more of the Tree Board's time and energy is going into removing dead and dying trees and large dangerous limbs as the urban forest ages. The current Tree Board budget only includes operational costs plus one or two removals per year. Allen suggested that, at the time of our next budget request, we submit our estimates for removals for the Commissioners to consider as a separate line item for better expenditure control.

Some candidates include:

- 300 High Street: The center of the large sycamore tree is dead, and the tree needs to be removed;
- 206 Freeman: A large sycamore at the corner of Freeman & First Ave needs large lower limbs removed;
- Main & Broad: A large dead pecan tree at the corner;
- 403 Factory Street: A hazard willow oak;

- Four dead poplar trees on Ragan;
- 209 Neuse: A small dead tree at the corner of King and First;
- A dead cypress tree at the Wildlife Ramp.

Planting: Planting plans are being made for the Fall of this year as follows:

309 High Street: Greg & Mary Sharpe are interested in crepe myrtles in their front yard. Board members will evaluate the space for up to three trees there, for a fall planting.

305 Broad Street: Ann Christian is interested in a couple of trees between her house and Hodges Street, with an eye to providing some visual break between the road and the new Mariposa Bakery. The location is complicated by overhead utility lines and very little space for trees. There is possibly room for 2 low-profile trees or shrubs there; again, for a fall planting.

305 Mildred: the owner has asked for a crepe myrtle planting; preferably a 20' single trunk variety.

6001 Dolphin Road: the owner has asked the Tree Board to evaluate his property for ROW tree planting.

The new Camp Creek subdivision offers an opportunity for the Board to apply landscape architecture concepts to the planting of the town ROW there. John asked Madeline for her suggestions for a planting plan for the new Camp Creek subdivision. More of the houses need to be built, and driveways marked, before any planting will be scheduled there.

Pruning Activities:

The Board began some pruning work in May in area 1A, starting on Midyette Street. This will be on-going, but should be wrapped up by fall.

Other special pruning requests outside of area 1A include:

- A crepe myrtle on Wall Street in front of Marsha's Cottage needs to be pruned away from signage;
- A live oak blocking the speed limit sign on South Ave in front of the breaker panel on the parsonage lot;
- Magnolia limbs blocking the street sign at the corner of Wall Street & South Avenue (beside the parking lot for the motel);
- A live oak blocking the yield sign on King Street & South Avenue (403 South Avenue);
- A request to significantly prune a live oak at 303 Vandemere. Bob and John agreed that some light pruning may help, but that the tree can't handle 'significant' pruning;
- The crepe myrtles inside the dog park fences need de-suckering;
- There is a limb blocking the sidewalk next to Nautical Wheelers;
- Crepe Myrtles at the corner of First & High need to be pruned for driveway access;
- Sign obstruction at corner of Freemason & Second Ave;
- Overhead clearance along Freemason;
- Along the entranceway to the Recreation Park, there are sycamore limbs hanging into the drainage ditch.

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.

- 500 South Ave: Two oaks at the corner of Wall extension & South Ave also show signs of advancing herbicide damage. They are shedding bark. These need to be monitored for possible removal.
- 600 Main: Diane sent a letter to the owner of a large dying pecan tree on private property, asking for the owner to remove this hazard threatening the neighbors and passersby.
- 903 First Ave: A dead pecan tree on private property at the corner of High & First. The owner needs to be notified that this hazard tree needs to be removed.
- 6000 Dolphin Road (corner of Dolphin & White Farm): There are pine trees with large branches that are overhanging the roadway and town ROW that are being damaged by passing trucks. The trees are not on town property. Diane may need to contact the property owner to address the issue.
- Lou Mac Park: Several of the trees along the bulkhead have been scarred at the base and the bark has separated. No rot was found, but they need to be monitored. The Tree Board members removed the defunct Christmas lights from the large live oak in the center of the park.
- 201 Neuse Street: Protective fencing has been erected – possibly more needed around the oak on Neuse. John has sent texts to the owner and builder concerning the oaks on Neuse Street – no response from the builder. This may need to be escalated.
- 400 South Ave: The Board pruned the limbs of several live oaks away from the house last year. The owner asked if more could be done. John looked at the trees, and nothing is closer than 4' from the house – he suspects that some type of lift would be needed to do any more. It is too soon this year to do more pruning on those trees until later this year.
- 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.

NEXT MEETING

The next full Board meeting will be **Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 09:00 AM** in the town hall main conference room. Pruning crews meet at the Town Hall most Tuesdays throughout the year.

Oriental Water Advisory Board

Friday, August 8, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ethan Gartin (Phone), Daniel Early, Steve Drew, Manager Miller, Jeff Sanders (Phone), Butch Rasmussen, Commissioner Bonnie Crosser and Allen Price, resident and business owner Greg Bohmert.

A. TRC Update

1. Booster Station. Selection to engage with Xylem to provide the pump supplier. The Xylem can supply a solution which uses smaller bladder tank and thus allowing us to eliminate a hydro-tank. Initial pricing is less than \$100K. TRC continue to work with Xylem on the solution design. Time lines for the Booster Project remain as anticipated - except for slight push regarding structural and electrical.

No	Task	Start	End
7	90% Design	6/20/25	8/20/25
8	Town review	8/20/25	9/3/25
9	Prepare and submit for permits	9/3/25	9/17/25
10	Receive permits	9/17/25	11/16/25
11	Bidding Services	11/16/25	01/15/26

2. Valve Replacement. TRC updated changes in the Bid Package. TRC will managed the Bid process through the portal. TRC to provide Town a Bid Package (without repetitive references) document. Suggested to include Pamlico News in the advertising. Anticipate the date the portal will be active — end of September 2025. TRC to submit design documents to DWI, DEQ, and NCDOT for review - allow 30-60 days.

3. Water Plant Rehabilitation Project. Scheduled onsite tour of the Water Plant with TRC and Electrical Engineer and staff on Friday, 8/15/2025. TRC to begin preparation of project design and scope - to move to the next phase for preparation of Bid Package.

4. Manager Miller to sign and submit Request for Milestone Extensions with DEQ.

5. Generator replacement: Generator switch install 8/1/2025. Anticipate mid September for the delivery of generator.

B. Copper Issue

1. July copper test came in at 1.4ug/L
2. Mr. Bailey requesting status of permit renewal with DEQ. Discussing: Diffuser - missing from Oriental permit and updated flow data from 2022. Pamlico County is in DRAFT on several of their permits — however, they do not have diffusers.

Continued discussions on copper level discrepancies within the permit and the impact of the diffuser on acceptable levels.

Prepared by Commissioner Bonnie Crosser
8/12/25