



TOWN OF ORIENTAL
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TO: Property Owners adjacent to Street Ends at King, Neuse and Wall Sts.

FROM: Town Hall, Oriental

DATE: 19 April 2021

Greetings,

The benches at the street ends at Wall Street, Neuse Street and King Street host a public bench for viewing. At its annual retreat, the Mayor and Commissioners discussed making sure that people knew those facilities are owned by the Town and that people are welcome to use them. To that end, the attached signs are proposed to be erected in the Town Right-of-Way near the entrance to those streets.

At the attorney's direction in 2015, the benches could not be put in the middle of the street, but could at the end, because they would not impede traffic there. The streets are neither closed nor abandoned, simply closed to vehicular traffic.

According to the attorney, they are Town owned streets, not parks, not susceptible to further development. Benches, however, are similar to any benches any municipality installs along its right-of-way on any street, and subject to the same rules. The originals, installed in 2016-2017 fiscal year were wiped out during Hurricane Florence, and reinstalled in the restoration process.

The placement of signs will be discussed at the May 4, 2021, 7PM meeting, open to the Public. Several options were discussed: placing them in the middle of the street, on one side or the other in the yard strip between sidewalk and curb, or on the street side right-of-way entering those streets. Following review of our attorney's original recommendations, it appears placement in the middle of the street is not allowed, noting that we cannot impede access to the street. The other two options will be discussed.

Sincerely,

Diane H. Miller, MPA, ICMA-CM,
At the direction of the
Mayor and Board, Town of Oriental



PUBLIC STREET

The unpaved area before you is a continuation of Neuse Street. This is a public street for your enjoyment. Stroll down, sit, relax and enjoy the Neuse River.

Town of Oriental