



Agenda

Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting



[Join virtually via Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 274 024 861 164 76

Passcode: Nu6Lk27e

9:30 a.m.– 11:00 a.m., September 23, 2026

1. Call to order; note presence of quorum.
2. Review and approve minutes from August 26, 2026 (VOTE)
3. **Heritage Tree Awards**
 - a. Recap presentation at City Council September 1, 2026 (Tom, Bridget)
 - b. Review 6716 Finian Dr (VOTE)
4. Strategic Plan Updates
 - a. **Community Education to the Public**

Goal: Give presentations to three professional organizations that influence new community members on the value of trees and maintaining the tree canopy in Wilmington within 1-2 years.

Follow-Up Items: On hold during the tree ordinance review
 - b. **Tree Ordinance and Enforcement**

Goal: Analyze the current tree ordinance and recommend an amendment to the Land Development Code to increase tree retention in all new development within 2 years.

Follow-Up Items: First Tree Ordinance Review Committee meeting on August 26.

Chair Report- Robin Morgan

 - Discussion on membership: Propose a reduction in committee size.
 - Scheduling
 - *Propose Committee meet before the regular Commission meetings starting in October to allow any recommendations to be brought immediately to the full commission for consideration. Any schedule change will need to be voted on by the Commission (VOTE)*
 - *Proposed schedule:*
 - *Committee: 9:30–10:30 a.m.*
 - *Commission: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*
 - *Subject Matter Expert Session proposed for October 14, 2026, Committee meeting from 10 a.m. to noon at Skyline Center.*

c. Partnerships and Collaboration

Goal: Create a spreadsheet and score card with statistics regarding the number of volunteers, volunteer hours, trees distributed, and use to provide updates to the public, determine the impact of work completed, and evaluate current practices within 2 years.
Follow-Up Items: Continuing tracking events and volunteer hours. Set the next target for data collection.

5. Staff Reports
 - a. Sally Thigpen – Asset and Property Management
 - b. Aaron Reese – Asset and Property Management, Urban Forestry
 - i. New tree work schedule communication process
 - c. Haley Hopkins – Planning and Development
6. Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees
7. Upcoming Events:
 - a. Native Plant Festival – September 16-18
 - b. The Great NC Tree Conference – October 8-9, 2026
 - c. Fire in the Pines – October 10, 2026
 - Tree Fest – January 15-16, 2027, from 11 am-4 pm at the Independence Mall by JCPenney.
 - d. Additional events of interest to the Commission
8. Old Business
 - a. Review proposed By-laws updates
9. New Business
 - a. Schedule (VOTE)
 - i. Chair requests a change of the October 28 meeting to October 21
10. Next Meeting is October 28, at 9:30 a.m., 929 N. Front St., 1st Floor Azalea Room (154H).
 - a. Adjourn –