



Minutes

Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting

929 N. Front St, Room 156.7, Wilmington, NC

9:30-11 AM, February 19, 2025

Attendance

Tom Boland, Chair – *in-person*

Bridget Callahan, Vice Chair – *virtual*

Jeanne Fisher – *in-person*

Rhonda Waterhouse – *virtual*

Alana Seaman – *virtual*

Catherine Cardamone – *in-person*

Sally Thigpen – *in-person*

Aaron Reese – *virtual*

Haley Hopkins, Secretary – *in-person*

1. Call to order 9:36 AM, Quorum present (6/9).
2. Review and approve minutes from February 19, 2025
Motion to approve minutes by Bridget Callahan, Second by Jeanne Fisher. No discussion. All in favor, 6/9.
3. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – Update
 - *912 Page Ave – Concern with location of tree, found to be in public right-of-way; recommended approval for local significance opposed to size. Motion to approve application by Catherine Cardamone, Second by Jeanne Fisher. No discussion. All in favor, 6/9.*
 - *6329 Head Rd – Potential historic significance, residents shared Civil War related history. Motion to approve application by Bridget Callahan, Second by Catherine Cardamone. No discussion. All in favor, 6/9.*
4. Strategic Planning committee updates.
 - **Tree Ordinance and Enforcement**- SMART GOAL: Educate all groups on how tree ordinance works.
 - *OLLI Presentation on February 27th – Chair to present on tree ordinance education and the role of the Tree Commission*
 - **Resource Commitment** – SMART GOAL: Provide support to City and other organizations in the implementation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) (Committee members are Tom who is committee chair, Cathey)
 - Urban Forest Master Plan – (Sally/Aaron) update on progress of action plans
 - *Continue to share grant opportunities as they come up, no additional support suggested*
 - *Forest Service grant on hold due to pause on federal grant funding*
 - *Street Tree Inventory remains main focus*
 - *Market Street Replanting information to be shared*
 - **Community Education** – SMART GOAL: Develop an ad hoc committee to identify 3-5 actions/activities to incorp into workplan, develop Native Tree planting resources (Committee members are Kate, Alana)
 - *Native Tree lists handed out at several recent events, well received by the public*
 - *Interest from public and commission to create additional lists for shrubs and screening*
 - *Wilmington 101 Panel – Vice Chair to be on Environmental Panel for Wilmington 101 February 27th*
5. Isabelle Shepherd - Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees
 - *Standardizing and expanding Native Tree Nursery program*
 - *Work continues with Penderlea and Williston tree planting plan*
 - *One planting scheduled*
 - *Grants search as a result of the pause on federal grants*
 - *Tree Stewards have been re-mobilized and have a full watering schedule*
6. New Business
 - *OLLI Presentation – February 27th, 10-12 at UNCW*
 - *Arbor Day Planning*

- MLK Center Planting and/or Hoggard High School Planting
- **Commission Workshop:**
 - Coat of Arms Exercise
 - Challenges and Opportunities Activity
 - *In two small groups, Commissioners identified challenges and opportunities for group discussion. The items discussed include:*
 - Challenges:** *rate of growth, funding for tree-related initiatives, local leadership understanding of value of trees/ecosystem services, commission knowledge of functions and opportunities*
 - Opportunities:** *community interest and investment in tree preservation, data to support the need/benefits of trees, benchmarking of other innovative tree practices in other cities, build relationship with City Council and local leadership to provide education and recommendations, Urban Forestry Master Plan, guest speakers/commissioner education and partner engagement*
 - Identify WTC Priority Initiatives – *moved to March meeting*

Next Meeting is March 19, 2025, at 9:30 am, 929 N. Front St, 1st Floor, Room 156.7.

b) Adjourn – 11:12 AM