



Minutes
Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting

929 N Front St, Room 154B, Wilmington NC
9:30 – 11:00 pm, September 18, 2024

Attendance

Tom Boland, Chair – *Present, in-person*

Cathey Luna - *Absent*

Catherine Cardamone – *Present, virtual*

Matthew Moore – *Present, virtual*

Alana Seaman – *Present, virtual*

Rainey Wallace – *Absent*

Bridget Callahan – *Excused*

Dan Camacho, ACFT – *Present, in-person*

Sally Thigpen, Ex-Officio – *Present, in-person*

Aaron Reese, Ex-Officio – *Present, virtual*

Haley Hopkins, Secretary and Ex-Officio – *Present, in-person*

Guests: Laura McCabe (ACFT), Margee Herring (ACFT)

1. Called to order 9:35; Quorum not present (4/7).
2. Review and approve minutes from June 12, 2024, and August 21, 2024, meeting
Motion to approve June 12 and August 21, 2024 minutes by Alana Seaman, second Matthew Moore, 4/7
3. Presentation by Andy Fairbanks on [Halyburton Park Long Leaf Pine Restoration Project](#)
4. Update on Market St. Replanting Project (Sally Thigpen) – *Working to develop the 400 tree contract, planning to be out to bid in the fall then create a timeline for the plantings, ACFT remains concerned with the post-planting care of the trees and is interested in partnering to care for the trees given potential issue with contractors not adequately investing in the survival of the trees, CoW open to further discussion*
5. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – Update
 - a. *Reviewed 2 applications – potential concern with tree at S 2nd St due to the poor health of the tree*
6. Strategic Planning committee updates.
 - a) **Tree Ordinance and Enforcement**- SMART GOAL: Educate all groups on how tree ordinance works by end of fiscal year 2023 (Committee members Tom and Dan). – *No update, interested in creating a pamphlet or other material to summarize Tree Ordinance especially for HOA property, private property, and vacant property, CoW Planning partnering with ACFT on a Community Meeting focused on Tree Ordinance and Development Process education which includes creating handouts and other supportive materials*
 - b) **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)
Urban Forest Master Plan – *Sally and Aaron to present a status update presentation at the next meeting (10/16)*

- c) **Community Education** – SMART GOAL: Develop an ad hoc committee to identify 3-5 actions/activities to incorp into workplan by end of 2022 (Committee members are Kate, Alana, and Dan Camacho (Alliance for Cape Fear Trees))
Native Tree Top 10 List Initiative – *Word doc lists created by Kate turned into graphic PDF to be shared (needs review by Kate and other Commissioners), suggested to remove numbering and allow residents to vote on the numbering to engage the community in trees they would like to see more of*
- 7. Dan Camacho - Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees
 - a.
 - b. *Working on fall planting and distribution schedule:*
 - i. *Nov 2 – Tree distribution in Riegelwood or Whiteville with International Paper and the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF)*
 - ii. *Nov. 10 planting with Audi Cape Fear, a tree for every car sold in Sep.-Oct.*
 - c. *Local native seedling initiative at Williston with Penderlea Farms– no acorns found on the Williston Oak, shifting to different oak on the Williston/Gregory property*
 - d. *Received biggest grant ever (\$100,000) from the ADF – grant to be focused on further developing the tree stewards program into the Tree Captaincy program (ADF) and the addition of a Tree Care Coordinator position*
- 8. New Business
 - *Upcoming Event: Fire in the Pines, 10/5 – Need volunteers, sign up sheet on the shared Google Drive*
 - *Future Events: Tree Fest (Jan.) and Arbor Day (Mar. and Apr.) – Tom to work on contacting schools, private/charter schools may be more accessible due to restrictions of the NHC School Board*
 - *Review and update Work Plan – 2022-23 Work Plan attached – Need to update Work Plan, would like to have more active members to do so, planning to hold a Strategic Planning workshop in November to update plan*
 - *Clear cutting concern – Landfall and Drysdale (Public initiated)*
 - *Piney Ridge Nature Preserve – NC Coastal Land Trust Project (Public initiated)*

Next Meeting is at 9:30 am, Wednesday, **October 16, 2024**. The meeting will be hybrid, (via zoom or in person at **929 N Front St. Room 156.7**)

- a) Adjourn – 11:13