



## Minutes

### Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting

929 N Front St, Room 154B, Wilmington NC

9:30 – 11:00 pm, May 15, 2024

#### Commissioners Present

##### In-Person:

Thomas Boland, Chair  
Jim Gregory, Vice Chair  
Matthew Moore

##### Virtual:

Alana Seaman  
Peter Jud Watkins  
Cathey Luna  
Andrew Blank

##### Absent without Notice:

Catherine Cardamone  
Rainey Wallace

##### Ex-Officio Present:

Haley Hopkins, Secretary  
Aaron Reese

##### Others Present:

Dan Camacho, ACFT

1. Call to order 9:33 AM; Quorum present.
2. Introduction: New Commissioner, Matthew Moore.
3. Review and approve minutes from April 17, 2024, meeting (VOTE) *Motion to approve Jim Gregory, Second by Andrew Blank. All in favor, 5/9.*
4. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – Update
  - a. *Presented awards at City Council on May 7. Positive response from community and council. One tree awarded with missing measurements to be remeasured. 2 new applications, scheduling measurements.*
  - b. *Program clarification: common concern with residents believing the award protects the tree, stated in emails with residents and on the website that this award does not offer protection from removal of the awarded trees. Will continue to ensure the same narrative is consistently presented. Also need to make sure land owner approval is given.*
  - c. *310 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St – Dan inquired about possibility of reaching out to property owners, such as at 310 N 4<sup>th</sup> St. with trees that are ideal to recognize. Commissioner unanimously agree this appropriate and should reach out via a letter.*
  - d. **Follow-Up Items: Purchase more certificates and folders, schedule application measurements and conduct measurements**
5. 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 Jim and Jud). Jim reviewing Tree Permitting education piece to recommend for use in Zoning Dept.-Jim Update.

*As an event handout/educational resource, want to develop a brief and easy to understand doc with important takeaways regarding tree preservation code.*
  - 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, Cathey)  
Urban Forest Master Plan – (Sally/Aaron) update on progress of action plans

Currently two staff position open in Forestry. Budget request is status quo and the new fiscal year will begin in July.

Project Updates (Aaron):

- Market St: on City Council agenda for May 21 to amend contract to add removal or backlogged trees around the City
- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue: In the permitting process
- 17<sup>th</sup> St: Trees relocated successfully, all in good health

- 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, Andrew and Dan Camacho (Alliance for Cape Fear Trees)). - Native Tree list- (Kate) update.

*Goal to have lists prepared by Fall to share for planting season.*

6. Dan Camacho - Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees
- a. *Held a tree pruning class and watering workshop for tree stewards*
  - b. *Participated in Earth Festival, a successful upkeep project at Pine Forest Cemetery for Work on Wilmington, Bellamy Mansion Family Fun Day, Live Oak Sustainability Festival, and led a second Heritage Tree Tour*
  - c. *Presented at Eden Elementary*
  - d. *Ready to schedule and start plan for taking care of trees*
  - e. *Williston Alumni Association – very receptive to harvesting Williston Oak and holding an event, next step to contact Williston Middle and Gregory for permission*

7. New Business

- a. National Arbor Day – School Outreach
  - Follow-Up Items: Tom to reach out to schools (potentially science coordinator)***
- b. Marketing and community education
  - *Interest in being present at a community event once a month*
  - *Need for new sign on stronger board or a banner for events*
  - *Educational materials: LDC Tree Preservation Basics, Heritage Tree Program Info, Native Tree Lists, Existing Pamphlet Re-vamped*
  - ***Follow-up items: quotes for printed materials, re-vamp pamphlet, complete native tree lists, develop tree preservation basics handout***
- c. Tree Awards Program
  - *Interest in restarting Tree Awards program, want to expand to recognizing businesses that exemplify ideal practices in landscaping and tree preservation*
  - ***Follow-Up Items: Check with legal to ensure recognizing businesses is an option***
- d. Calendar
  - *Reviewed shared yearly calendar and potential events*
  - *Potential to connect with groups by having them present on their organization or mission to the Commission and find opportunities to collaborate*

Next Meeting is at 9:30 am, Wednesday, **June 12, 2024**. The meeting will be hybrid, (via zoom or in person at **929 N Front St. Room 154C**)

- a) Adjourn – 10:40 AM