



Agenda

Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting

929 N Front St, Room 154C, Wilmington NC

9:30 – 11:00 pm, June 12, 2024

Attendance

Tom Boland, Chair – *Present, in-person*
Jim Gregory, Vice Chair – *Present, in-person*
Catherine Cardamone - *Absent*
Matthew Moore - *Excused*
Alana Seaman – *Present, virtual*
Peter (Jud) Watkins – *Present, in-person*
Cathey Luna – *Present, virtual*
Rainey Wallace - *Absent*
Andrew Blank – *Present, in-person*

Bridget Callahan – Present, in-person
Dan Camacho – Present, virtual
Sally Thigpen (Ex-officio) – Present, in-person
Aaron Reese (Ex-officio) – Absent
Haley Hopkins (Ex-officio, secretary) – Present, in-person

Public: Mary Farmer, Robin Gregory

1. Call to order 9:33 AM; Quorum Present.
2. Introduction: New Commissioner, Bridget Callahan
+ public guests Mary Farmer and Robin Gregory
3. Review and approve minutes from May 15, 2024, meeting (VOTE), *Motion Jim Gregory, Second Jud Watkins, All in Favor, 7/9.*
4. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – Update
2 outstanding applications to be measured, 1 re-measurement needed
Previous scheduling effort failed, reaching back out to applicants for available dates.
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. – *Concerns with tree ordinance not clearly mentioning vacant lots (still applies to vacant lots but unclear), unclear about HOA inclusion, different naming approaches causing confusion. Creating subcommittee: Dan, Jim, Tom*
 - 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) – *Sally presented a brief analysis of the City’s tree canopy via land cover maps and tree canopy maps. Loss of 7% of tree canopy coverage from 2016 to 2020. Commissioners and public shared concerns regarding the tree removal and replanting along Market St – concerns with lack of transparency, a clear replanting plan, and lack of prior planning for the project, encouraging staff to be more proactive in the future*

- 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. – *Lists are still being finalized. Potential for a Star News (or other local news) article to keep trees as a hot topic in the community.*
- 6. Dan Camacho - Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees
 - *Change in staffing: Allison (Administrative coordinator) resigned; Margee Herring is now the President of ACFT*
 - *Tree stewards have been very successful so far as they work through their new watering schedule in teams – another class for tree stewards coming in the fall*
 - *Noting common tree damage during watering is from weed whackers*
- 7. New Business
 - a. Tree Identification – *Commissioners interested in more information and potential presentation/course on how to identify common trees*
 - b. Tree Awards – *Can award businesses (likely landscapers) for their work as long as the program has clear criteria to be met, Haley to send out criteria used in the past*
 - c. Tree Canopy
 - d. Guest Speakers
 - i. *UNCW – interested in Hannah Bell presenting*
 - e. Marketing Materials – *Cathey and Bridget working on marketing materials (Cathey investigating prices, Bridget editing brochure). Materials interested in: brochures, banner, t-shirts.*

Next Meeting is at 9:30 am, Wednesday, **August 21, 2024**. The meeting will be hybrid, (via zoom or in person at **929 N Front St. Room 156.7**)

- a) Adjourn – 10:41