



Minutes
Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting
9:30 – 11:00 pm, March 20th, 2024

2024 Chair, Tom Boland presiding.

Commissioners Present In-Person:

Thomas Boland

Andrew Blank

Commissioners Present Virtual:

Alana Seaman

Cathey Luna

Jim Gregory, Vice Chair

Catherine Cardamone

Absent with Notice:

Rainey Wallace

Sally Pridgen

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Aaron Reese

Haley Hopkins, Secretary

Others Present:

Dan Camacho, ACFT

1. Call to order at 9:30; Quorum present.
2. Review and approve minutes from February 21, 2024, meeting (VOTE) – *Motion to approve minutes with the edit of a grammatical error by Jim Gregory, seconded by Cathey Luna. All in favor (5/8)*
3. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – (Cathey) update on tree award.
 - a. Discuss presentation plan, certificates, and missing data. – *Planned presentation to CC on April 16. Certificates will include measurements, tree species, month and year of awarding, and signature from Commission Chair and the Mayor. Not all trees need to meet size requirements to be awarded a Heritage Tree, can be deemed significant by the Wilmington Tree Commission. Jim will be sharing the missing measurements.*
4. 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. – *No update.*
 - 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 – (Aaron) update on progress of action plans – *Budget request for items recommended from UFMP have not been accepted. Discussed potential for Tree Commission to support in the grant search process in addition to sharing letters of support as needed. Sending along any potential grants found to Aaron Reese and Dan Camacho.*
Market St. Project – *NCDOT shared the project may begin after the bridge project. Expected to begin work in May.*
5th St Project – *No status update. There are existing articles about the project and reasoning for the tree removal. CFPUA is removing the trees due to an issue with utilities.*

- 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 Lloyd Singleton who is committee chair, Kate, and Alana). - Native Tree list-(Kate) update. – *Discussing potential to use news media to promote native tree planting, local news has had several recent tree/environmental related articles which we could continue to build on. Lists expected to be completed in the next month.*
- 5. Dan Camacho - Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees – *To be able to reach the needed numbers, had to give away a few non-native trees. Actively working with Penderlea Farms to better plan for giving away native trees by raising the trees a couple years out to prepare for giveaways. ACFT has the idea to harvest a Williston Oak to connect with the community and to be able to have it as a giveaway option in the future. Tree steward committee working on plan for caring for trees that have been planted. Using a Google program to map tree locations and other tree information.*
 - Creek Week talk ‘Power of Trees’ – March 21*
 - Heritage Tree Tour – March 24 (40 sign ups, most popular tree tour)*
- 6. New Business
 - a. NC Arbor Day – *Planting at Portia Hines Park at 10 AM, March 22. Trees have been picked up and locations planned. Jim will speak on the importance of trees and the role of the Tree Commission. Dan will speak on the history of NC Arbor Day. Aaron will speak on the planting project and potential other plantings.*
 - b. Calendar Update – *Calendar has been shared. National Arbor Day on April 26 – would prefer a school be involved in this event.*
 - c. Greater Downtown Plan – *Planning Department is working on a planning initiative for the Greater Downtown area (18 neighborhoods) that will be driven by community input. Attending several upcoming community events (on Calendar) to collect input. Potential for an Environmental Focus Group.*
 - d. Meeting Location – *Plan for meetings to be 929 N. Front (Skyline Center) moving forward. Goal to be in small first floor conference room, Haley will book and update.*

Next Meeting is at 9:30 am, Wednesday, **April 17, 2024**. The meeting will be hybrid, (via zoom or in person at 929 N. Front, Room 157)

- a) Adjourn – 10:30