



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

Commissioners Present Virtual:

Alana Seaman

Cathey Luna

Jim Gregory, Vice Chair

Catherine Cardamone

Absent Without Notice:

Rainey Wallace

Jud Watkins

Absent with Notice:

Andrew Blank

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Aaron Reese

Sally Thigpen

Haley Hopkins, Secretary

Others Present:

Dan Camacho, ACFT

1. Call to order at 9:34; Quorum present.
2. Review and approve minutes from March 20, 2024, meeting (VOTE) – Motion
3. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – (Cathey) update on tree award.
 - a. Discuss presentation plan, certificates, and missing data. – *Presentation moved to May 7. Certificates ready to be printed and passed to Council, Cathey to deliver certificates to Dawn Grant this afternoon. Presentation to accompany awards complete (Haley).*
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 – No update/changes.
 - 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. – Still revising lists. Dan and Kate working on formatting and potential plan for web access. Potential for handouts/QR code during Tree Giveaways and other events. Investigating and potentially reaching out to other organizations who may also be working on a Native Tree List/database.
5. Dan Camacho – *Still working on mapping sites and planning for tree steward care, continuing interest in harvesting Williston Oak and potentially other historical trees as well (researching)*
 - a. *April 20th - Pine Forest Cemetery Clean Up for Work on Wilmington + Earth Day table with Tree Commission (giving away gallon trees)*

- b. April 22nd - GE Tree Giveaway, supporting*
 - c. April 25th - Participating in the Live Oak Bank Sustainability Festival*
 - d. April 28th - Heritage Tree Tour with HWF*
 - i. Heritage Tree tours lacking historical component and potential connections to local Black history, interested in doing more research on potential places to tie the Heritage trees into Black historical events.*
6. New Business
- a. UNCW Grant – on the radar for potential future support, were not able to provide a letter of support due to time constraint for approval from Commission.*
 - i. Environmental Insights Workspace – Dan sharing, assessment of tree canopy using AI, estimate of canopy, estimated Wilmington tree canopy to be 40%, have additional tools as well as*
 - b. Calendar – no changes.*
 - i. Earth Day – need Commissioner volunteers to attend*
 - c. Arbor Day – no event this year, starting planning for year. Tom to send out emails to principals of schools before end of school year*

Next Meeting is at 9:30 am, Wednesday, **May 15, 2024**. The meeting will be hybrid, (via zoom or in person at 929 N. Front, Room 154B)

- a) Adjourn – 10:30