

**Town of Oriental  
Tree Board Meeting  
March 5, 2013 9:00 am**

The Oriental Tree Board met on March 5, 2013 at 9:00 am in the Oriental Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairman: Bob Miller, Members: Bob Andrews, Dick Creighton, Ken King, Lynne Kaplan, Paul Olsen and Commissioner Barbara Venturi.

Media: Melinda Penkava

Absent: Member Toni Leavitt.

Chairman Miller opened the meeting.

Approval of minutes:

Ken King asked that the February minutes be corrected. Under Old Business it was stated that 22 trees had been planted. However, it should state that 22 trees are available for planting.

**Motion** – Paul Olsen moved to approve the February minutes as corrected.  
Second by Dick Creighton. Vote 6-0

**Old Business:**

Tree Planting: Member Ken King reported that a recent tour of town had identified tentative planting sites and requested the aid of staff to help with preliminary notifications to residents within the planting sites.

Also mentioned was the possibility of replacing a tree near the home of the Mays on South Avenue.

**Arbor Day:**

Chairman Miller asked those present to assist with the decision as to the location of the Arbor Day activities scheduled for March 16, 2013. Mr. King informed those present that he had acquired several trees that could be planted at the Recreation Park and identified them as Chinese Elms.

Mr. Creighton suggested that multi-stem Crepe Myrtles be planted along the west side of Broad Street. Chairman Miller agreed but noted that DOT approval would be needed and that care would need to be taken as the town's water lines were located in that area. Another area identified that might benefit from the planting of Crepe Myrtles was the front of town hall as well as the rear of the building near the air conditioners.

Chairman Miller informed the board that he and Commissioner Venturi had met with the Town Manager, Robert Maxbauer, and that a parking lot plan for the town hall was expected. He also informed them that Town Manager had agreed that the two trees near the parking lot would be remaining. Chairman Miller stated that he planned to meet again with the Town Manager and

Commissioner Venture in the near future to discuss the surface of the town's parking lot. It was Mr. Miller's recommendation that pervious concrete be used.

Mr. Andrews reported that April 6, 2013 had been selected as the date for the town-wide cleanup in conjunction with the efforts of the Neuse River Keeper Clean up Program. He said that he had recently been invited by Sue Magunson, Parks & Recreation Committee, to assist with the identification of plants in the town beach area during the clean up event. She hoped that this would prevent the unwanted destruction of desirable plants. Lynn Kaplan suggested that future plantings of grasses suitable for beach areas be planted.

Mr. Andrews also reported that some of the topics discussed at the Commissioner's Retreat last month that might require the involvement of the tree board was the installation of a sidewalk along Broad Street from the Town Hall to Ragan Rd., repair of the tennis court at Lupton Park, and the new park at the corner of Factory and Neuse. It was noted that a larger room for the retreat in the future would be desirable.

Commissioner Venturi extended an invitation to the Tree Board to attend Parks & Recreation Committee meetings. She also hoped that attendance to each of the board meetings would provide insight into each other's challenges and goals.

Swells and ditches along the town's sidewalks were discussed. Members pointed out the need for a policy limiting the height of grass to no lower than 3 inches in order to prevent excess runoff of water. It was noted that it was healthier for water to drain slowly, just short of providing a habitat for mosquitoes.

Discussion returned to the Arbor Day activities and it was agreed that the Recreation Park would be the best location. Chairman Miller asked that it start at 8:30 AM in order to conclude by 11:00 AM. This would give those attending an opportunity to also attend the Chowder Cook-Off to be held at 11:30 AM at the Oriental Marina Courtyard on Hodges Street. Chairman Miller volunteered to write a press release and to email others interested in attending the Arbor Day Event. Mr. King volunteered to contact Mr. Hardison. Lynn Kaplan agreed to notify the Oriental Garden Club.

Chairman Miller asked that a donation from Barbara Barden in the amount of \$25.00 be put into a special account created to hold all donations slated for the Tree Board. Commissioner Venturi agreed to seek Town Board approval for such an account. Ken King also donated \$5.00 given to the Tree Board by a tourist. Chairman Miller asked that the purchase of the Wind Mill Palms by Charlie Overcash also be added to the account.

***Dorothy Whipple Tree:*** It was suggested that this tree be moved back to the town hall site in early spring.

Mr. King informed the board that pruning for area three (3) was almost complete. It was mentioned that a dead pine near the intersection of Gilgo and Lupton should be removed. Staff would issue a work order to the Public Works department for its removal.

**New Business:**

Paul Olsen asked the status of trees near the new business, Sea Coast Electronics, on Board Street. It was noted that the trees were not in the town's right of way and that the owner of the project had taken precautions to minimize the destruction of trees on the property.

Chairman Miller reported that the meeting would continue at Lupton Park.

**Motion:** Ken King made a motion to move the meeting to Lupton Park and to adjourn once business there was concluded. Second by Mr. Andrews. Vote 6-0

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Bob Miller, Chairman

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Heidi Artley, Secretary