

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Minutes

October 3, 2024

Present: Margaret Johnson (Chairperson), Lee Maxwell (Vice Chairperson), Jewelean Mustard, Sue Davidson, Rosalie Farley, Vacant, Vacant, Vacant

Absent: Elise Snavely, Brice Taylor (Stormwater Administrator)

Staff: Brady Golden, Bill Craft (Town Council Liaison)

Guests: Carolina Candelaria(Tree Peace)

Meeting called to order at 8:32 am ET.

- **Motion to Accept Meeting Agenda** 1. Sue Davidson 2. Jewelean Mustard
Approved Unanimously
- **Motion to amend the agenda to include a presentation on "Tree Peace" by Carolina Candelaria.** 1. Sue Davidson 2. Jewelean Mustard
Approved Unanimously
- **Motion to Accept September 2024 Minutes** 1. Lee Maxwell 2. Sue Davidson
Approved Unanimously

Announcements

- Welcome to Rosalie, a new member of the committee. Rosalie previously served on the environmental committee in Greenville and has joined due to her persistence and strong passion for the work.

Reports from Staff

- **Brady Golden:** Materials from the committee can be updated and displayed at the Recreation Center. Several members have educational and information materials to display in a dedicated area - all council approved materials will now be displayed.
- **Bill Craft (Town Council Liaison):** Discussion on the "Seed to Tree" awards recognizing citizens contributing significantly to the town's environmental efforts. Town staff are ineligible.
 - ❖ Example: Cindy Bass, a citizen who picks up trash daily.
 - ❖ Only four awards have been given in the last three years.
 - ❖ Discussion about putting up a plaque in Town Hall to honor recipients.
- **Brice Taylor (Stormwater Administrator):** *Absent*

Old Business

- **Membership (Jewelean Mustard):** Efforts to recruit new committee members are ongoing. Committee members will continue to promote the Environmental Advisory Committees (EAC) need for new members at the next Town Council Meeting; there are currently three vacant seats that the committee is working to fill.

➤ **Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Lee Maxwell):** Lee reported that he was not informed of the first project meeting due to email communication issues. The key goals of the project include achieving Tree City status, maintaining and updating town vegetation ordinances, pursuing grants, and wetland preservation. These initiatives fall within the purview of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

- ❖ Lee will ensure that the committee remains informed as the project progresses.
- ❖ Sue Davidson would like to see discussion supporting commercial entities and businesses for participation in recycling practices.

➤ **Living Shoreline (Margaret Johnson):** The September clean-up was canceled due to potential contamination concerns. The next clean-up is scheduled for November 16, from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

➤ **Recycling (Sue Davidson):** Reported that 500 GFL recycling brochures have been distributed to relabel bins. The discussion centered on how best to educate the public about proper recycling practices and ways to improve accessibility.

➤ **Friend of Stormwater (Margaret Johnson):** More to come, updates to be provided at a future meeting.

➤ **Public Information Programs (Margaret Johnson):** The committee discussed potential public outreach programs, including utilizing the 801 building for workshops in the fall and spring. Additionally, a stormwater presentation was suggested to increase public understanding of the allocation and use of stormwater management funds.

New Business

➤ **Adopt-a-Highway Recruitment (Margaret Johnson):** Rick Barry requested assistance in recruiting volunteers to participate in Adopt-a-Highway cleanups, with a focus on weekday morning pick-up.

➤ **Tree Peace Presentation(Carolina Candelaria):** Carolina presented the North Carolina Forest Service Share Grant request to the committee. Tree Peace is seeking a letter of support for a grant application through non-profit IRA funding, with a submission deadline of January 1st.

- ❖ The initiative includes a three-to-five-year plan, with the first year's objectives already achieved through a council tree canopy grant and the land use plan.
- ❖ For the second year, Tree Peace is seeking approval from the council to direct staff to apply for additional funds. They are also requesting less than \$5,000 in in-kind support from the town.
- ❖ A decision on the initiative was tabled pending the submission of further details on the workplan and budget.

Adjournment at 9:57 am ET.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn**

Approved Unanimously

1. Sue Davidson

2. Jewelean Mustard

Minutes compiled and submitted by: Jewelean Mustard

Appendix

Appendix 1:

Living Shoreline Events

- ❖ Fall: November 16, 13:30-15:30 *Alt. Date/Time: November 30, 12:30-14:30*

Appendix 2:

Current Comprehensive Land Use Plan

<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/456/637205045692430000>