

City of Oxford

Tree Board

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Minutes

In Attendance

Cowan Hunter, Ed Croom, Mary Hartwell Howorth, Ben Requet, Mark Levy, Nick Matthews, James Hirsch

Not in Attendance

Hume Bryant, Jaclyn Colemeta, Hollis Green

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:18 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the agenda, Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

3. Approval of May 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve the May 2025 minutes, Commissioner Howorth seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Reports and Issues

a. Building and Grounds

1. Consider Request for Tree Removal at 712 S. Lamar Blvd

Nick Matthews from the Building and Grounds department informed the Tree Board of a dying tree on 712 S. Lamar Blvd in need of assessment. Commissioner Hunter motioned for the tree to be removed due to the extent of the damages, Commissioner Howorth seconded; all aye.

2. Report on Tree Damage and Removals from Recent Storms

Nick reported that due to the previous storm a tree fell and was removed on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive along with other miscellaneous small trees.

3. Discuss B&G FY 26 Budget Recommendations Re City Trees

Nick informed the Tree Board that the FY 26 Budget will include replacing small trees along North and South Lamar, Ed Perry and Sisk. Nick also included the renovations to

the landscaping at the new Oxford Police Department Building. There was further discussion.

b. Planning

1. Update Re Current or Pending Development Projects Re Tree Mitigation
Ben Requet, Director of the Planning Department informed the Tree Board of Pine Tree removal along Blackberry Hills. Ben enlightened the Tree Board of plans for a new Parks and Trails coming May 2026. There was further discussion.

c. Special Projects, Engineering

1. Report Status of Current FY 25 Projects Re Funding from Tree Escrow
Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects briefed the Tree Board on the completion of the City Pool and the new design for the landscaping of the OPD Building. There was further discussion.
2. Discuss Upcoming FY 26 Projects Re Tree Plantings and Budgeting
Mark informed the Tree Board that the FY 26 Budget would be used to plant trees on the roundabouts on University and HWY 6, the removal and replacement of trees on the pickleball courts in Stone Park and adding trees along Molly Barr and Washington. There was further discussion.

5. Business

1. MFC Update and Info from Participation in Recent Tree Plotter Webinar
Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board of the newly gained access to Tree Plotter which will enable the documentation of removed or additional trees. There was further discussion.
2. Participation in Oxford "Saluting Branches" Event Sept. 17th
Commissioner Hunter informed that the Saluting Branches Event will still occur on September 17th encouraging Master Gardeners to join in the planting of various trees and shrubs. There was further discussion.
3. Update Re Old Project Reassessment and Review
In relation to Old Project Reassessment there is no further update at this time.

6. Move to Adjourn

Commissioner Hunter motioned to adjourn this meeting at 11:52 A.M., Commissioner Howorth seconded; all aye.