

Minutes of Treepeace Meeting 7/17/24

1. A monthly meeting convened at Crossroads at 10 AM presided over by President Phil Dudley.
2. In attendance were: Phil, Wendy Morris-VP, Nancy Martin-Treasurer, David Merkle-Secretary, Bob Fulton, Judy Droitcour, Ed Lovett, and Guests Julie Angle and Tom Simmons. *Note: Bob Fulton and Tom Simmons are running as “non-affiliated” for BC Commissioner candidates in this Fall’s elections.*
3. Wendy brought forth a proposal for later consideration of establishing a “Photo Tree Tour” for Oak Island similar to one she was familiar with in Beaufort, NC. The idea would be to capture in photos some of the most picturesque trees to be used for various educational and promotional purposes. This proposal to be developed further in coming weeks.
4. Wendy also presented a separate idea for establishing a “Wind Phone” facility in our Town which allows for people to make intimate spiritual connections with deceased family members and friends in an environment of Nature’s peaceful, serene atmosphere. These type of facilities are currently available in many parts of the World and spreading due to the impact and availability of the World Wide Web. This proposal and the preceding one she suggested offered some meaningful interaction with the ‘human needs’ portion of TPO advocacy. It demonstrated positive results (not just opposition) to policies of development in our Town. No TPO action necessary at this meeting-but possibly for other upcoming meetings.
5. Due to the fact that we had 2 political candidates running as “non-affiliated party” for the BC Commission at our meeting; We were

anxious to hear their positions on matters that especially affected our core concerns. We had well found out that Bob Fulton's positions pretty well mirrored our own from a previous meeting and the fact that we witnessed him becoming a Member at an earlier meeting. Tom Simmons, from Boiling Springs Lakes, spoke at length about how the Current Commission controls professional planning & zoning staff officials and these current Commissioners bow to the developer/builder industry and how that dynamic will not change unless new blood dominates the Commission.

This resonated with attendees as recent reports of the BC Commission have tried and succeeded in abolishing the ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) for the Town of Southport-thus freeing builders and developers themselves from local planning and zoning ordinances.....and continue to strip lands of trees.

6. David brought up the fact that Oak Island having been designated a "Tree City" many years ago used to have a sign announcing that fact situated where Long Beach Road enters the Barbee bridge. The sign was lost with Hurricane Florence in 2018 and was never replaced. Initially; the Town had to receive approval to erect a new sign in the State Right-of-Way for that.

David made a **MOTION** for TPO to request Town Council approve replacing that commemorative sign. After a Motion 2nd and ensuing discussion; President Phil indicated that he felt that he could raise the Subject up with Mayor White and get her guidance on TPO's request. The **MOTION** was amended for the President to

confer with the Town Mayor to seek that guidance for proceeding on this issue. It was seconded and approved by voice vote.

7. There being no further business-the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Merkle, Secretary