

Minutes of TreePeace Meeting 8/21/2024

Present: Phil Dudley, Pres. ; Wendy Morris, VP; David Merkle, Sec.; Carolina Candalaria, Grants Co-ordinator (via phone); Sue Dudley; Julie Angle; Anita Millard, Sue Davidson; Judy Droitcour (Affiliate),; Tom Simmons, Guest.

1. President Phil opened the Meeting at 10:01 AM at Middleton Park.
2. Minutes of 7/17/24 Meeting were moved by David and seconded and approved.
3. Phil announced that he had been approved to serve on the Town's committee of OKI's update of the "Land Use Plan" which is the guidance for Town officials in future land use development.
4. Phil announced that he had created a TPO newsletter and that had been sent out to some 50 people (Members, Affiliate Members, supporters, etc.) whom he had Email addresses for. He is hoping to find a Member to take over a regular edition for the group.
5. Carolina gave progress report on Grant Request to NC Forest Service:
 - a. Eventually needs Town Council approval; next step to make Power Point presentation to EAC-Sue Davidson to see if EAC Meeting Room is equipped to receive the presentation; needed is someone to make the presentation.
 - b. Needs quotes for market rates to employ teacher (Certified Arborist) for workshops and documentation of Heritage Trees.
6. Member Judy Droitcour, who is especially active in Countywide issues, spoke to recent actions/events that Brunswick County Commissioners and our State Legislative Representatives who have taken action on that are adverse to the Citizenry of Southport, Oak Island, and the Coastal Region of Brunswick County. **Issue #1** was the effort and success to remove the ETJ (*Extra Territorial Jurisdiction*) that surrounds our sister City and it's authority to apply local zoning to new development within NC Statute

designated areas. As of recent weeks-all new development is instead governed by Brunswick County zoning-much weaker standards that clearly benefit the developer/builder segment of our population. **Issue #2** is the reality that NC legislators want to repeat the removing of ETJ's from other incorporated Towns in Brunswick County (including Oak Island) and areas beyond.

COMMENT: We already see the wholesale loss of trees in OKI due to new development-some unavoidable, but as we all drive to nearby areas like NC Rte 211 corridor, we see de-forestation pretty clearly. (*See more Editorial comment following the Meeting Minutes.*)

Issue #3 regards an effort to “De-annex” portions of Incorporated Cities and Towns-many that have been under legal City jurisdiction for many decades. That legislation; if successful, will give the developers a “triple play” in thumbing their nose at environmental issues.

EDITOR'S NOTE: While **TreePeace** is committed to being a non-political organization other than it's advocacy for saving and planting trees in it's corporate jurisdiction and it's ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction); it's officers and members have the right to express their personal opinions freely-so long as they state that they are not *representing the positions of TreePeace*.

Respectfully submitted,

David Merkle, Secretary