

TPO News, Events and Opportunities



Upcoming Events

September 17 at 10:00 a.m. -

Regular Monthly Meeting at Middleton Park next to Town Hall. Seating is limited please bring a chair if you are able.

December 6 at 2:00 to 5:00

- Christmas By The Sea at Middleton Park

A Closer Look at Chapter 32

In February of 2024 the Town made some very significant changes to Chapter 32, the ordinance that regulates vegetation (and trees). The new Ordinance provides some very important directives that will ultimately make this island a better place to live. It was a historical and brave move by Council, and they should be commended for their vision in passing these revisions.

Among other things, the new ordinance restructured the requirements for tree planting on lots under development. The new ordinance encourages anyone building a new house to preserve existing trees. By saving existing trees, the builder/home owner may avoid planting new trees. On a typical lot (+/- 6,600 square feet) in the wooded section, that could easily save the new homeowner \$5,000-10,000 in new planting costs..

Another important aspect of the revisions to Chapter 32 is that it now identifies the importance of saving some of our larger trees by designating any hardwood tree greater than 15" in diameter (and any softwood/pine tree greater than 30" in diameter) as a "Heritage Tree". Under the new ordinance, Heritage Trees are protected, and can only be removed in certain situations. The tree protection offered in the revised ordinance not only

Continued on page 2 , Chapter 32

About Us

Tree Peace OKI is a 509 (a) (2) non profit incorporated in the State of North Carolina dedicated to promoting and educating about the value of trees to Oak Island, NC. We may endeavor to influence legislation for that purpose but we may not support any candidates or political parties.

Contact us

We meet the third Wednesday every month at 10:00 a.m. Message us on our Tree Peace OKI Facebook page.

Our Officers

Phil Dudley, President

Paula Byerly, Vice President

Eileen Soderberg, Treasurer

David Merkle, Secretary

Join or Donate to Tree Peace OKI

at treepeaceoki.org

A one year membership is only \$20

Continued from page 1

Chapter 32

covers Heritage Trees on lots under development, but it protects Heritage Trees in the yards of existing homes. In other words, revisions to Chapter 32 not only impacts new construction, it requires homeowners to preserve large trees anywhere on their lot.

Town staff has done a good job getting this information about the new requirements on the Town's website. You can find the new ordinance by hovering over the "Government" tab on the home page. Under "Administration" you will find Town Ordinances. The entire Chapter 32 Ordinance can be found there. You will also find "Tree Preservation and Removal" under Development Services on the Government tab. It contains very important information for anyone considering removing a tree on their property. You can also contact Brice Taylor, the Town's Stormwater Administrator (and Tree Program Manager) at 910-933-4026 if you have questions

Chapter 32 is 18 pages long, and covers many layers of regulations for both new construction and established properties. In an effort to help citizens better understand the Ordinance revisions, Tree Peace OKI will continue to provide articles about these regulations in future Newsletters.

Submitted by Derek Williams, pla

Questions for Candidates

Summer is over and it is time to begin seriously thinking about our election in November with two Town Council members leaving after full terms and the Mayor up for reelection with two challengers.

Continued on page 3, Election

Continued from page 2

Election

Our role is to elicit positions on trees and to make the positions public as a voter aid for citizens that care about preserving and planting trees. We must remain unaligned and not recommend any specific candidate;

Questions for Town Council Candidates/Mayor

- 1. Does the Uniform Development Ordinance (UDO) Chapter 32-76 Vegetation Ordinance governing construction have any short-falls or is it over-reaching? What changes would you advocate for as a Town Council member?*
- 2. What improvements/reductions/modifications to the UDO Chapter 32-79 governing Heritage Trees would you advocate for as a Town Council member?*
- 3. Will you vote for the town to continue (as they have for the last two years) to purchase, plant, and care for 200 25 gallon Live Oaks to be planted in street Right-Of-Way and town owned land per year for each year of your term in office?*
- 4. Would you seek to place members on appointed boards/committees (Planning Board, Environmental Advisory Committee, Board of Adjustment) who advocate strongly for the protection of the Town's natural habitats? Why or why not?*

Tree Peace OKI is cooperating with the Oak Island Civic Alliance to get the questions before the candidates in an orderly fashion.

As the previous article explains the only way to preserve, and plant back trees here is through town government and there has been a positive change for restoring our tree canopy since the 2023 town council election.

34th Annual Oak Island Arts & Crafts Festival

A good time was had by all and thanks for all that helped set-up, tear down, and attended. These are a great opportunity for Tree Peace OKI to meet towns-people. We picked up a few new member and gave away a few potted live oak trees. A very special thanks to our own little tree-person Judy Reid who organizes these events and dons the tree costume and hands out tree bark that she makes herself! Also, Pat Young for the donation of the potted tress.



Chris Riegert adopts the Tree Peace Superhero pose, Judy Reid with her winning smile from a knot hole in her tree costume!



Pat Young explaining to the tree how much taller she can be with fertilization and proper pruning!

Recognizing our Sponsors!

Live Oak Level Sponsors



Magnolia Level Sponsors

Yaupon Holly Level Sponsors

Pelican Pack and Ship

Francesca Slaughter, Realtor, Hank Troscianiec Associates

Brunswick Beacon