

Town of Henlopen Acres

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Henlopen Acres, DE 19971

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TREE COMMITTEE

The Tree Committee of the Town of Henlopen Acres held a Meeting on **Friday, May 9, 2025, at 10:00 am** virtually and in person at Town Hall, 104 Tidewaters, Henlopen Acres, Delaware.

MEETING MINUTES

<u>Present:</u>	Jeffrey Jacobs	Tree Committee Chairman (Zoom)
	Lynda Moses	Tree Committee Member
	Andrea Richter Pedigo	Tree Committee Member
	Lee Raesly	Tree Committee Member
	Louise Montgomery	Tree Committee Member
	Jay Ashby	Town Arborist
	Joni Reich	Mayor
	Anna Fagan	Town Manager
	Bob Ribinsky	Town Zoning Officer
	Andrea Harpster	Town Clerk

<u>Absent:</u>	Tim Hidell	Tree Committee Member
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1. **Call to Order**

Chair Jeffrey Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. **Review and Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2025, Meeting**

Louise Montgomery made a motion to approve the minutes, Lee Raesly seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Discussion on Tree Committee Assistance to Update the Town of Henlopen Acres Approved Tree List**

J. Jacobs stated that the Board of Commissioners have requested that the Committee work to update the Town's Approved Tree List. Town Manager Anna Fagan further explained that this work is relevant to the proposed amendments to Chapter 114, Trees, that the Commissioners are considering. Mayor Joni Reich presented a draft list that was prepared based on the existing Town tree list and organized with an emphasis on canopy trees. L. Raesly expressed concerns about being too prescriptive.

Town Arborist Jay Ashby recommended moving away from specific varieties and focusing on species. This will give the Town some flexibility when considering plantings. He also suggested including a list of those species and varieties that are considered undesirable.

J. Ashby and A. Fagan will work to develop a species list and organize by canopy, understory, and specimen for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee also discussed J. Ashby and A. Fagan developing some educational materials that can be distributed to residents to help them navigate unfamiliar terms and other relevant information, as well as updating the Tree Committee page on the website.

4. Discussion on Loblolly tree borers

As background for the discussion, A. Fagan explained that a resident-contracted landscape company raised concerns over wood borers and infested trees in the Acres in the process of reviewing plans for a new home. This company indicated that it was likely that most of the pines here in Henlopen Acres were infested. The Town found this news alarming. So, Town staff did some research and had the State Forestry office send out a forest health specialist to evaluate the trees throughout the Town. The specialist looked at 50-60 trees and found there were no wood borers present.

J. Ashby agreed with this assessment and further stated that even though there are wood borers present in the Town, it does not mean there is an infestation and it doesn't mean that the infected tree is going to die.

5. Discussion on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 114, Trees, of the Town Code

J. Reich provided an update on where the proposed amendments stand, summarized the purpose of the upcoming public hearing on May 23rd, and discussed the materials that were given to the committee to review.

The Committee discussed the proposed amendments and the moratorium on tree removal that was put into place.

6. Identification of date(s) for the next meeting(s) of the Tree Committee

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8th at 10:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment

L. Raesly made a motion to adjourn, L. Montgomery seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Harpster, Town Clerk