

Town of Henlopen Acres

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Henlopen Acres, DE 19971

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TREE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

A meeting of the **Tree Committee** for the Town of Henlopen Acres was held virtually and in person on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 10:00 am** at Town Hall, 104 Tidewaters, Henlopen Acres, Delaware. Information on how to participate is posted at the bottom of this agenda.

PRESENT:	Jeff Jacobs	Tree Committee Chairman
	Lee Raesly	Tree Committee
	Andi Pedigo	Tree Committee
	Louise Montgomery	Tree Committee
	Lynda Moses	Tree Committee
	Tim Hidell	Tree Committee
	Joni Reich	Mayor
	Anna Fagan	Town Manager

1. Call to Order by Chair Jeff Jacobs: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.
2. Review and Approval of Meeting minutes from September 12, 2024

Lee Raesly made a motion to approve the minutes. Lynda Moses seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Update on the Fall tree planting on the Town property

The Town Arborist, Jay Ashby, gave the committee an update. All the trees have been planted; however, he did note that getting trees this fall was difficult due to high demand. Delaware has the million-tree initiative, so native species are becoming harder to find. Consequently, things could be more expensive. Mr. Ashby recommended the Town consider placing orders in May for fall plantings for the best possible price. Mr. Ashby also noted that these new plantings receive NutriRoot fertilizer, and the Town will maintain the necessary watering regime to ensure survival.

4. Update on references to Town Trees in the revised Comprehensive Plan

Lee Raesly informed the Committee that no changes to the Comprehensive Plan regarding trees have been made. Chairman Jeff Jacobs would like to see a goal included for the maintenance of the tree canopy. He believes that 75% coverage is an unrealistic objective

given that coverage is a mix of Town trees and privately owned trees. Henlopen Acres currently has the densest canopy in Sussex County and is listed as one of the top five in the State of Delaware. Mr. Jacobs suggested moving away from the numerical goal. The objective should be more relative with a broader range of language, stating that the Town will strive to remain the most heavily tree-canopied Town in Sussex County and to remain within the top 5 Towns.

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

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, March 21st, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M. at Town Hall.

6. Other business

The Town Manager, Anna Fagan, gave the committee an update on a grant from the Delaware Forest Service. The Delaware Forest Service has released the invitation to submit applications for their Urban Community Forestry Program. The Town is seeking funding for an inventory of Town trees. The goal is to get a handle on what we do have and how to maintain them in the future. The inventory will serve as a guide to the Town and the Committee over the next several years for planting and maintenance. This inventory needs to be maintained regularly to be used as a management tool.

The grant requires the submission of two proposals in order to apply. The Town has asked Jay Ashby and Jeremy Hagger to submit proposals for an initial inventory and then the cost to maintain an inventory.

Should the Town be successful and get the grant, this sets them up to be a great candidate to return to the Delaware Forestry Service for funding for other items. A Town inventory would take roughly three weeks to complete.

7. Adjournment:

Jeff Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Pedigo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Harpster, Town Clerk