

WINDERMERE TREE BOARD
Chair: Vicki Hearst
Vice Chair: Olga Aleksandrova
Secretary: Elena LaRochelle
Treasurer: Joan Foglia
Cillian Ammar
Council Liaison: Brandi Haines

Agenda ***Agenda***

April 14, 2026
9:15 AM

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
614 MAIN STREET - BLDG. 100
WINDERMERE, FL 34786

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH F.S. 286.26: Person with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any such proceedings should contact the Office of the Clerk at least 48 hours beforehand at (407) 876-2563.

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2005-12 adopted on December 13, 2005, the following Civility Code shall govern all procedings before the Town of Windermere Windermere Tree Board:

1. All electronic devices, including cell phones, shall be either turned off or otherwise silenced.
2. Prolonged conversation shall be conducted outside Council meeting hall.
3. Whistling, heckling, gesturing, loud conversations, or other disruptive behavior is prohibited.
4. Only those individuals who have signed the speaker list and/or/who have been recognized by the Mayor (or Chair) may address comments to the Council.
5. Comments at public hearings shall be limited to the subject being considered by the Council
6. Comments at Open Forums shall be directed to Town issues.
7. All public comments shall avoid personal attacks and abusive language
8. No person attending a Windermere Tree Board meeting is to harass, annoy, or otherwise disturb any other person in the room.

Any member of the public whose behavior is disruptive and violates the Town of Windermere Civility Code is subject to removal from the Windermere Tree Board meeting by an officer and such other actions as may be appropriate. PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH F.S. 286.0105: Any person who desires to appeal any decision at this meeting will need a record of this proceeding. For this, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

AGENDA

- **THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR**

1. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT (3-Minutes Limit)

2. OLD BUSINESS

a. Historic School House and Grove – freeze damage and citrus tree.

b. Ward Trail updates.

c. Centennial map.

d. Trees Florida Conference – June 1 to 3, 2026.

e. Tree list for Arbor Day 2027.

f. Expenditures (Attachments).

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve minutes from March 19, 2026 (Attachments).

b. Re-visiting the Strategic Plan (Attachments).
- What are our next goals and how do we achieve them?

c. Soliciting for new members.

d. Summer vacation schedules. Will we have quorums?

4. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Items for next month

5. ADJOURN

2025/2026 Tree Board

Revenue	Amount
Beginning Fund Balance	
Farmers Market - October 3 10 17 24 31	$ 1,245.00
Farmers Market - November 7 18 21	$ 790.00
Farmers Market - December 5 9 12 30	$ 925.00
Farmers Market - January 6 9 23 30	$ 975.00
Farmers Market - February 6 13 24 27	$ 1,020.00
Farmers Market - March 6 13 20 27	$ 1,060.00
Total Revenue	**$6,015.00**
Expense	
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 2,500.00
Forsign LLC	$ 175.00
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 4,200.00
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 2,200.00
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 1,500.00
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 1,100.00
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 1,000.00
Holiday Hoopla Table - Joan Foglia	$ 146.13
Holiday Hoopla Table - Joan Foglia	$ 72.06
Urban Tree Doctor	$ 1,000.00
Total Expense	**$ 13,893.19**
Revenue over Expenditures 2025/2026	**$ (7,878.19)**

Updated 4/7/2026

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2026 – 9:15 AM

Administration Conference Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicki Hearst at 9:20 AM.

In Attendance:
Elena LaRochelle, Chair Vicki Hearst, Vice Chair Olga Aleksandrova, Cillian Ammar, Joan Foglia
Council Liaison: Brandi Haines
Staff Liaison:

2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Historic School House and Grove Update
Jennifer Hitchcock (Urban Tree Doctor) provided an update on the grove following the recent freeze. Most orange and lemon trees are recovering and showing new growth. The Board recommended utilizing remaining 25-gallon Centennial Trees to replace any trees that do not recover.

Site Clean-Up: The majority of the cleanup has been completed. Remaining items will be addressed by Town staff.

Freeze Damage and Recovery: The Board discussed replacing avocado trees with cold-tolerant avocado varieties and low-chill peach trees. Most existing avocado trees are likely non-viable; confirmation will occur at the next meeting. A replacement list is being developed.

b. Ward Trail Project Update
Additional tree impacts are anticipated due to the construction of the retaining wall.

c. Centennial Tree Map
The subcommittee will meet later this month to continue development of the Centennial Tree map.

d. Trees Florida Conference
The conference will be held June 1–3, 2026, in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Cillian Ammar will attend.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes

January 15, 2026:
Motion by Elena LaRochelle to approve. Seconded by Joan Foglia. Motion carried unanimously.

February 19, 2026:
Motion by Elena LaRochelle to approve with corrections to Item 3.d (clarifying discussion of Pine Trees planted at the Willows community). Seconded by Olga Aleksandrova. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Arbor Day 2027 Planning
The Board discussed tree varieties for the January 23, 2027 Arbor Day event, including canopy, understory, flowering, fruiting, wet-condition tolerant, and native species. Members compiled a list for further refinement and sourcing.

5. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Next Meeting Date Adjustment:
Motion by Elena LaRochelle to reschedule the April 16, 2026 meeting to April 14, 2026 at 9:15 AM. Seconded by Olga Aleksandrova. Motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURN

Motion by Cillian Ammar to adjourn. Seconded by Joan Foglia. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

TREE BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

MAY 2024



THE TOWN OF Windermere

Our Vision

To safeguard and enhance the urban canopy, ensuring its vitality and resilience for generations to come. We aspire to be a respected and influential advocate championing the importance of trees, green spaces, and sustainable urban ecosystems.

Our Mission

The Tree Board is dedicated to nurturing and enhancing the urban canopy within our municipal boundaries. We achieve this through a multifaceted approach:

1. **Education of Our Community:** We empower our community by providing *knowledge and awareness* about the importance of trees. Through workshops, outreach programs, and educational campaigns, we foster a deeper understanding of the role trees play in our environment.
2. **Preservation and Protection:** We are staunch advocates for the preservation and protection of our urban canopy. By enforcing tree ordinances, promoting sustainable practices, and addressing safety concerns, we ensure the longevity of our green assets.
3. **Proliferation of Urban Canopy:** Our commitment extends beyond maintenance. We actively engage in diverse tree plantings, reforestation efforts, and the expansion of green spaces, with an emphasis on Florida natives. This not only enhances property values but also contributes to carbon sequestration and effective stormwater management.
4. **Beautification and Aesthetics:** We collaborate to leverage resources for parks, recreational areas, and the public realm to enhance community aesthetics. By strategically planting and maintaining trees, we create inviting and visually appealing landscapes for residents and visitors alike.

Goals & Objectives

GOAL 1: MAINTAIN "TREE CITY" DESIGNATION

Objective

Continuously meet the criteria for the "Tree City" designation.

Strategies

- Regularly assess compliance with the requirements set by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Collaborate with local government and community stakeholders to ensure ongoing adherence to tree-related standards.
- Celebrate Arbor Day annually with tree-planting events and educational programs.

GOAL 2: MONITOR AND PROVIDE INPUT TO TOWN PROJECTS

Objective

Monitor development projects and programs, and provide input to ensure consistency with Tree Board goals and objectives.

Strategies

- Develop communication program to make community aware of future infrastructure construction schedule and locations.
- Collaborate with Historic Preservation Committee and interested stakeholder groups in the preservation and enhancements to the historic Citrus Grove.
- Actively participate in the Town's 100th Anniversary Celebration activities
- Near term continue to monitor mitigation and implementation plans for 500 Block development and Ward Trail projects.

GOAL 3:
DEVELOP EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Objective
Broaden the types of forums for education and information dissemination.

Strategies
- Community Workshops: Organize regular workshops and seminars on tree care, planting techniques, and the benefits of urban trees. Invite local experts and arborists to share their knowledge.
- Community Events: Build on Arbor Day event to include participation in other community-wide festivals and public activities as part of advocacy program for Tree Board initiatives.
- Student Programs: Create engaging materials for students, such as tree identification guides and interactive activities.
- Online Resources: Develop a comprehensive website or online portal with resources like tree care guides, videos, and FAQs. Ensure it's accessible to all community members.
- Tree Walks: Conduct guided tree walks in parks and neighborhoods. Educate participants about different tree species, their ecological roles, and historical significance.
- Partnerships: Partner with environmental organizations, garden clubs, and other community groups. Leverage their expertise and networks to expand educational outreach.

GOAL 4:
INITIATE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Objective
Be the proactive agent for specific initiatives related to the preservation and maintenance of the Town's tree canopy.

Strategies
- Designation Process for "Heritage & Memorial Trees":
  - Develop clear guidelines for selecting Heritage/memorial trees, considering factors like species, location, and significance.
  - Involve community input to honor local history and culture.
  - Create a formal application process for requesting memorial tree designations.
- Update Regulatory Codes for Mitigation:
  - Conduct a comprehensive review of current codes.
  - Propose amendments to strengthen enforcement, streamline processes, and improve clarity.
  - Seek input from legal experts, environmental specialists, and community members.
- Develop Site Plan for Future Planting Opportunities:
  - Survey public spaces, parks, and street rights-of-away to assess potential planting sites.
  - Prioritize areas with low tree coverage or high visibility.
  - Collaborate with landscape architects and urban planners to create a detailed site plan.


City of Windermere, FL

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