WINDERMERE TREE BOARD

Chair: Frank Krens
Vice Chair: Vicki Hearst
Secretary: Bonnie DiCocco
Treasurer: Pamela Schrimsher
Joan Foglia
Olga Aleksandrova
Elena LaRochelle

Agenda ***Agenda***

Council Liaison: Brandi Haines

August 21, 2025
9:15 AM

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
614 MAIN STREET, BUILDING 100
WINDERMERE, FL 34786

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS

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 and pagers. 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 proceeding is made which includes the

AGENDA

1. THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR
2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT (3-Minutes Limit)
3. OLD BUSINESS
    a. Final Tree Giveaway Completion
    b. Citrus Grove Greening and Additional Replants
    c. Gazette Article - Citrus Grove Story (Attachments)
    d. Schoolhouse Property Landscaping Project Ideas and Plans
    e. Town Square Improvements Update
4. NEW BUSINESS
    a. WTB Minutes of July 17, 2025 Meeting (Attachments)
    b. New Member Application (Attachments)
    c. Financial Report
    d. Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting
5. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
    a. Date and time for next meeting. September 25, 9:15 am
6. ADJOURN

Windermere's Historic Citrus Grove
Looking to the future!

By, Vicki Hearst



Behind the Historic 1890s School House on 7th Avenue and Forest Street sits our town's Historic Citrus Grove. The grove contains a variety of citrus trees, a few mango trees, and even a couple of avocado trees. The grove is maintained by Windermere's Tree Board, and if you've driven past it recently, you may have noticed some changes.

The Florida and global citrus industries have been impacted by Huanglongbing—commonly called citrus greening—a disease spread by the Asian citrus psyllid, a small insect that feeds on the sap of citrus trees. Until recently, managing these insects was the only tool grove owners had. The University of Florida has been working to identify best management practices and to produce new citrus varieties that are either resistant or tolerant to the disease.

With the release of more HLB-resistant and HLB-tolerant citrus varieties from UF, along with their recommended programs for citrus greening management, the Tree Board hired an arborist to oversee the Historic Citrus Grove. Over the last few years, diseased citrus trees have been removed and replaced with young varieties resistant to citrus greening. Some of these resistant trees, planted two years ago, are already starting to produce fruit. Additional trees planted more recently are growing well and should bear fruit in the coming years.

Today, the Historic Citrus Grove is looking healthy. It contains over 30 citrus trees and, with continued care, will remain a vibrant part of Windermere's history and future.

New HLB-Resistant and HLB-Tolerant Varieties in the Historic Citrus Grove

The University of Florida has made great strides in cultivating citrus varieties resistant to citrus greening. Here are a few that have been planted in the grove at 7th Avenue and Forest Street:

- Sugar Belle – A delicious mandarin fruit that, when mature, can be harvested from mid-November to December. HLB tolerant.
- OLL-4 – A juicy sweet orange with excellent flavor, harvested when mature in mid-February. HLB tolerant.
- UF Redlime – VERY thorny; an Australian finger lime hybrid resistant to HLB. Produces elongated limes with caviar-like red pearls inside.
- UF Green Finger Lime – VERY thorny; an Australian finger lime hybrid resistant to HLB. Produces elongated limes with pink, caviar-like pearls inside.
- Donaldson Orange – HLB tolerant; a sweet early-season orange recommended by UF as a replacement for Hamlin oranges.

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Draft ***Minutes***

Council Liaison: Brandi Haines

July 17, 2025
9:15 AM

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
614 MAIN STREET, BUILDING 100
WINDERMERE, FL 34786

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DRAFT MINUTES

1. THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR

- Frank called the meeting to order at 9:20am.
- In attendance:
- Chair: Frank Krens
- Vice Chair: Vicki Hearst
- Secretary: Bonnie DiCocco
- Olga Aleksandrova
- Elena LaRochelle arrived at 9:40am
- Town Liaison: Tonya Elliott-Moore
- Wade Trim Representative: Chris Thompson
    - o

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

- There was no public comment.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- **Final Tree Giveaway**

    - The final tree giveaway will take place tomorrow evening at Windermere Rec. We will have 2 town staff member, Frank, Vicky and Pam attending to hand out trees to residents. Residents will remain in their car and be loaded with the tree and a bag of mulch.

    - The giveaway shall include 27 more homeowner trees. 3 are also slated for the tennis courts as well as a few other throughout Town parks. Total homeowner trees is estimated to be near our initial projection of 65 trees. We are now very close to our goal of '100 trees for 100 years'. Vicky is tracking this number.

- **Revised Tree Ordinance Status**

    - The State took a position that because of recent hurricanes, stronger fees, terms and conditions or any change in general cannot be made as it pertains to tree ordinances. Any change that happened from 2023 until now, can now be challenged by a developer. At this time, it is not pertinent to move forward with tree ordinance changes, including the increased fees.

- **Citrus Grove Greening and Replant**

    - Jennifer and her team were at the grove yesterday and removed dead trees (7/16). She also estimated the need for 8 additional trees. She sent a

proposal for the trees- they're roughly 3' tall and include varieties like: sugar bell, finger lime and a new variety called the Donaldson.

- Jennifer has been periodically coming in to check on the trees and the 500 Block. Jennifer noted that many of the dead and declining trees are planted over 1' deep. Olga asked about replanting at an appropriate depth and Jennifer does not believe this to be necessary as the ones planted at this depth are mostly deceased.

- **Gazette Article**

  - It was discussed that we should put an article in the Gazette pertaining to what we've done at the Historic Grove. The article should highlight our hard work to restore the grove and let residents know the outcome of the program, working with Jennifer Hitchcock of Orlando Tree Consulting.

- **Schoolhouse Property Landscaping Project and Field Trip**

  - The meeting was taken outside to the 'field trip' locations at 10:06am.

  - We first met at the Historic Grove and discussed the status of the grove as well as adding a few additional citrus trees. Vicky made a motion to add additional trees to the grove (in addition to the 8 already proposed by Orlando Tree Consulting). Olga seconded the motion. Motion carried.

  - It was determined an additional 7 varieties resistant to citrus greening would be beneficial in rounding out the grove, for a total of 15 new citrus trees. Bonnie made a motion to add an additional 7 trees to Jennifer's existing proposal. Vicky seconded the motion. Motion carried.

  - We discussed the impacts the Town improvements would have on several trees including 2 oaks (34dbh and 28 dbh) along 6th Ave.

  - We also discussed the pathway and magnolia tree in front of the Library. The consensus is to keep the magnolia and potentially modify the path for easier library access.
  - John does not believe the pruning of the oak necessary to accommodate the proposed bathroom location would have a visible detrimental affect on the tree. It would most likely recover well from such pruning.

- **Town Square Improvements Plan and Field Trip – Chris Thompson Wade Trim**

  - Chris gave his thoughts on how the parking spots were planned after Frank asked how he came up with the number of spots. On 6th Ave, a few spots had to be moved to allow entrance to the new parking lot.

  - A raised sidewalk along 6th was discussed to avoid damaging tree roots.

- Vicky believes all of the camphor trees should be removed from the project space. Other WTB members were in agreement.

- With the current plan, there is a net loss of parking spaces.

- Vicky questioned why the memorial is being moved. Chris let us know that long range planning wanted to move it for visibility.

- Along with the visibility plan, the plan is to replenish trees with long-lived trees to have a large diverse canopy.

- Cal Palmer is intended to be utilized more for the Town's use.

- Vicki wants to further the discussion of trees in the Main Lawn, within the 400' walking loop.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- **WTB Minutes of June 26, 2025 Meeting**

    - Vicky made a motion to approve the minutes, with the exception of the updated date. The date should reflect the 26th of June NOT July.

    - The keeping of the minutes on the website was discussed. The website is in the process of being updated and we might be able to potentially make changes to allow members and residents to better find WTB meeting minutes.

- **Financial Report**

    - Pam was not in attendance.

- **Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

    - Vicki suggested talking about a mailer to Town residents.

    - Vicky likes the idea of finishing the Tree Walk document and disseminating that to Town residents. This could be accomplished in an email blast.

    - School house project.

    - Getting information to those affected by the Bessie, Butler and the following phases of water line installation. Tonya believes there should be a process for sending this information to residents and a way for them to express concerns when trees are affected by the water project.

    - Adding a plaque to the historic grove.

    - Camphors in the space next to the proposed bathrooms.

5. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Frank is making a presentation to the Rotary Club next Tuesday. The presentation is being sent to us for review.

6. ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned near the basketball court around 11:20am.



E	BIKE PARKING AREA
F	REGULATION SIZE BASKETBALL COURT
G	PROPOSED TOWN HALL RESTROOM
H	MAIN CONNECTOR WALKWAY
I	PERIMETER SIDEWALK
J	NEW CROSSWALK ACCESS POINT
K	MULTI-PURPOSE REINFORCED LAWN AREA
L	DOUBLE DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE
M	LIBRARY ENTRANCE EXPERIENCE
N	MAIN LAWN W/ 440 FOOT WALKING LOOP
O	PERPETUALLY MAINTAINED TREE CANOPY
P	EXISTING CROSSWALK
Q	PROPOSED CROSSWALK
R	RELOCATED CROSSWALK TO ACCOMMODATE ROUNDABOUT
S	REMOVABLE BOLLARDS STYLE TO MATCH DECORATIVE LIGHT POLES
T	REMOVABLE BOLLARDS + MOUNTABLE CURB
U	OFF SITE PUBLIC PARKING
V	TOWN OF WINDERMERE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
W	

Windermere Tree Board - DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – July 26, 2025

1. **THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR**

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 9:38am.

- Tree Board members Vicki Hearst, Pam Schrimsher, Olga Aleksandrova, and Frank Krens were present.
- Public Works Director/Assistant Town Manager Tonya Elliott-Moore participated.
- Town Council Liaison Brandi Haines participated via phone
- Historic Preservation Board member Hanna Ammar participated as requested

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

Windermere Resident Cillian Ammar Attended and expressed her appreciation for the work that the Tree Board does and expressed interest in joining.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Municipal Water Project, Potential Tree Impacts / Arborist Oversight Recommended by Council Member Haines – deferred to next meeting

b. Status and Discussion of Strategic Planning Actions Taken at June 9 Workshop

- Tree Ordinance Exec Summary – Olga said this is still in work. The ordinance has not yet been approved by Town Council.

- Tree Survey Update / Plans / Ideas for Town Square – After discussion, there was consensus not to take action with the current provider/owner of the survey product, but to make best use of the survey that we have in its existing state and engage Town arborist Jennifer Hitchcock to use it to help with detail assessment and planning regarding trees with initial focus on trees on Town Square.

Brandi said that approval of the plan for Town Square is on the Town Council agenda for July. There was discussion regarding the planned number, density, and location of new parking spaces and the potential impact on the trees. Vicki recommended that we all take a field trip during the next meeting and make notes of what we each consider parking spaces that would not adversely impact the trees.

- Final Legacy Tree Giveaway Plans, Help Needed, Resident Response – Vicki gave an update on plans for a final purchase and round of the Legacy Tree

giveaway. Pam gave an update on coordination with those who have received Legacy trees and the status of providing and installing the plaques.

- WTB participation in Pocket Park Planning – Frank said that several committees and other Town stakeholders have expressed interest in this project, that it would be led or directed by Mayor Jim O'Brien and that stakeholders would receive an invitation from the mayor to participate.

- Schoolhouse Landscape Project Coordination with Historic Board – Frank referenced the concept provided by Town resident Stephen Withers and stated that Tree Board would like to pursue this project in cooperation with the Historic Preservation Board. Historic Preservation Board member Hanna Ammar agreed that this would be a good approach and that she would bring it up at their next meeting. Olga made a motion that Tree Board investigate feasibility of pursuing a combined project with the Historic Preservation Board to generate a concept and a plan to landscape the schoolhouse property in the next year or so. Pam seconded and the motion passed 4/0. There was consensus to include a field trip to the schoolhouse property in the next meeting agenda.

Tonya said that Kelly in Public Works noted that four of five of the young citrus trees show greening. Tonya said that she messaged Town arborist Jennifer and that she agreed that they need to be replace with new citrus trees that are not susceptible to greening and will provide a quote.

c. Next Article for the Gazette (The Ordinance Exec Summary?) – the article may have to be deferred until after the ordinance is approved.

4. NEW BUSINESS
a. WTB Minutes of May 2025 Meeting (Attachment) – Pam made a motion to approve the May 25 meeting minutes, Vicki seconded and the motion passed 4/0.

b. Potential Items for Next Meeting

Schoolhouse property landscape project planning workshop and field trip

Town Square improvements plan, status, and field trip

Citrus grove greening and replanting plans

Legacy tree final giveaway status

Gazette article

4. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Financial Report - Pamela Schrimsher - deferred

b. Date and time for next meeting - July 17, 9:15 am – The members agreed to work harder to avoid changes in meeting date/time.

6. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45am

MAYOR
JIM O'BRIEN

THE TOWN OF
Windermere

TOWN MANAGER
ROBERT SMITH

CLERK
DOROTHY BURKHALTER

614 MAIN STREET, WINDERMERE, FL 34786
OFFICE: (407) 876-2563 FAX: (407) 876-0103

REC'D JUL 28 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

1. Name: Cillian Ammar Phone: 407-766-8740
2. Home Address: 315 W 2nd Ave Windermere, FL 34786
3. Business: / Business Phone: /
4. Business Address: /
5. Email: Cillianammar @ proton.me
6. Brief Summary of Education and Experience:
I graduated from Olympia HS in 2019 as an NHS student w/ a 4.8 GPA, and got a full-ride scholarship to Bard College, where I took courses like Engaged Citizenship, Democratic theory, scientific literacy skills + critical thinking. Volunteer w/ the Historic Board, Tree Board (for Treebute) + Nehrling Gardens for several years.
7. Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes ✓ No ___
8. Are you a registered voter? Yes ✓ No ___
9. Resident of the Town for 6 Months or longer? Yes ✓ No ___
10. Do you hold public office? Yes ___ No X
11. Are you employed by the Town? Yes ___ No X
12. Do you now serve on a Town Board or Committee? Yes ___ No X
13. Indicate which Board(s) or Committee(s) you are interested in:

Code Enforcement Board __ Development Review Board __
Downtown Business Committee __ Elders Committee __
Historical Preservation Committee __ Long Range Planning Committee __.
Parks and Recreation Committee __ Windermere Tree Board ✓

14. Why do you think you are qualified to serve on this board?
I've lived in Windermere nearly all my life and was raised here, I love to be involved in local community, and as "The Next Generation" I look forward to being a younger voice that brings new perspectives. I have passion for activism, environmentalism, native biodiversity, community-building, and so on — and I would love to apply my knowledge + experience to benefit the Town.

***FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS MAY BE REQUIRED FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

Signature: Cillian Ammar Date: 07/07/2025

Note: If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk at (407) 876-2563 ext. 5323