***Washington Park Town Crier***

***Fall 2024***

1. **Personnel**: The Board welcomes Nicolas Villeda as the new Public Works employee. Nicolas, a long-time resident of Beaufort County, began work with us on August 12 and has hit the ground running. Special thanks to Les Woolard for continuing to help us part-time during the time it took to get Nicolas on board.

1. **NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP)**: Updates on the Town of Washington Park Resilience Strategy priority projects list:
	1. Design and build a Living Shoreline as a means of reducing erosion and flooding – **authorized grant funds for Phase 3: engineering / design**
	2. Develop/upgrade Stormwater System – **considering a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grant to request funding for a stormwater action plan; requires Town match of 25%**
	3. Create a Flood Attenuation Park in frequently flooded areas along Riverside Dr.
	4. Implement Green Stormwater/Bioretention Cells in highly flooded areas.
	5. Increase flood capacity along the tributary east of Isabella Avenue and Shorewood Dr.
	6. Develop infrastructure to change over from individual lot septic tank use to town-wide sewage collection and sewage treatment plant – **EPA’s Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Initiative grant approved; will provide technical assistance in the form of a feasibility study for development of a town sewer system, as well as assist with submitting future funding applications**

1. **Landscaping**: The Townscape Committee has initiated a new landscape design for the Washington

Park entrance at Beech and River Roads. The community is invited to participate in a “Plant-In” day on Sunday, October 13 at 2 pm. A Chinese fringe tree is already in place. Ground is prepped, mulched and ready to receive new flowers and grasses. The planting sites will be marked. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us! Bring your garden tools and let’s help beautify the Park.

As the RCCP report referenced potential projects for Isabella Avenue, the Town Board has recommended holding off on replanting along the Isabella median for now. The Town Board does not want any work that may be done (drainage or pavement) have to be removed later. While being mindful of the height limitations due to the overhead powerlines, the Townscape Committee will be formulating recommendations for future replanting.

1. **Tag Notices for Lawn Trimmings and Debris pick up**: As a reminder, commercial contractors are responsible for removing their debris and/or building materials. Solid wastes that are too bulky, too heavy, or too cumbersome to be collected by the Town staff as part of its regular collections service may be collected by the Town pursuant to a request made to the Town Clerk and payment of a fee for this service. Town staff will begin leaving notices, when they see oversized items/piles, asking the resident to call the Town office to discuss the issue. The Town wants to be able to continue debris pick-up while ensuring staff is safe and not overburdened, and equipment is used for its intended purposes with extended longevity.

1. **Yard Debris – Loose Leaf pick up:** Loose leaves will be picked up by Town staff as part of normal debris pick-up. Please do not place debris in roadways, especially in the bike lane on River Road. Leaves should be placed adjacent to the street to allow for easy access for staff.