

Town of River Bend
Community Appearance Commission
July 30, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
River Bend Municipal Building, 4:00 PM
51 Shoreline Drive, New Bern, NC 28562

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:03
2. Members present: Brenda Hall Chairperson, Pat Lineback, Maryann Taylor, Lisa Benton, Council Liaison
3. Guests: Barbara Maurer, Patty Leonard
4. Motion to approve May 21, 2025 CAC meeting minutes made by Pat Lineback and seconded by Maryann Taylor. Motion passed and vote was unanimous.
5. Discussion about new, ongoing, and annual projects, programs, events, and workshops for 2025:
 - a. Projects
 - i. Plantation Median Rejuvenation Project with \$5K approved from Town Council
 1. Town Council did not approve funding to proceed with Plantation Median Project. No further action.
 - ii. CAC Sidewalk Gardens, Raised Bed Garden, and Veteran's Memorial Garden
 1. The gardens are self sufficient and only need occasional weeding and watering.
 - b. Programs
 - i. Festive Award
 1. Independence Day Festive Award - Due to minimal town participation a motion to discontinue this award program was made by Maryann Taylor and seconded by Pat Lineback. Motion was accepted and vote was unanimous.
 2. Fall Festive Award
 - a. Nominations 10/10 to 10/20/2025. Judging 10/21/2025, award 10/26/2025
 3. Christmas Festive Award
 - a. Nominations 12/5 to 12/15/2025, judging 12/16-12/18/2025, award 12/20/20

ii. Beautification Award

1. Discussion of Town value for the Beautification Award program determined that this program is of little value to the community due to low participation by the residents. Motion to discontinue this program was made by Pat Lineback and seconded by Maryann Taylor. Motion was accepted and vote was unanimous.

c. Events

i. Arbor Day

1. Event date is 3/21/2026

- a. Ideas discussed were bat house building or bird house building, book a wildlife speaker to discuss the advantage of bats or snakes, or offer something to do with monarchs and milkweed.

ii. Christmas Festive Award Town Tours

1. Event date is 12/19/2025. Pat Lineback will contact Hazel Campesi and Ralph Iorio to ask if they will play Mr and Mrs Claus from 5-7:30 pm. Possible picture taking?
2. We will ask community watch to assist with parking.
3. Runs will be 5:30-6, 6:30-7, 7:30-8.

iii. Fall Festive Award Town Tours

1. Deferred until 2026.

d. Workshops

i. Crab Pot Christmas Globes/luminaries

1. 11/15/2025. Crab pot workshop at 10 am and luminary workshop at noon. Fee will be \$10.

ii. Independence Day craft

1. Maryann Taylor made a motion to discontinue due to lack of participation. Motion seconded by Pat Lineback. Motion passed and vote was unanimous.

6. Brenda will log volunteer hours.

7. Recruitment for CAC Volunteers - Several ideas were discussed with no resolution.

8. Budget discussion - \$5500 was approved

9. Updates from Town Council Liaison - Lisa presented a summary of the most recent town council meetings. Lisa stated that she will readdress the median project before next years budget sessions.

10. Open Discussion - Patty Leonard presented the idea of collaboration with the Environmental Advisory Board to have a cleanup along the waters edge and invite the scouts to participate.
11. Motion to adjourn was made by Maryann Taylor and seconded by Pat Lineback. Motion approved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm.

Submitted by Pat Lineback

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Lineback". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name "Pat Lineback".