

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION– TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN**

**July 7, 2016**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

The Regular Meeting was held in the Second Floor, West Wing Conference Room, Town Hall, 399 Monmouth Road Oakhurst, NJ 07755 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chairwoman Von Gerichten  
Member(s) Pogwist, Colten, Johnson  
Alternate(s)  
Associate(s) Lutz

**Absent:** Member(s) Kliem  
Alternate(s)  
Associate(s) Rogoff, Gulick

**Others:** Kate Maloney, Secretary  
Jack Kearns, Resident  
Devin Goldman, Resident

**Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law:**

Laurel Von Gerichten announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law for this meeting have been satisfied; a copy of the Annual Notice was sent to the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster, posted in Town Hall and filed in the office of the Township Clerk on June 3, 2016.

**REVIEW:**

1. June 2, 2016 minutes
2. Agenda
3. Budget – No Updates
4. Correspondence – None

A motion to adopt the June 2, 2016 minutes was made by Mary Johnson and seconded by Laurel Von Gerichten

In Favor: Von Gerichten, Pogwist, Johnson, Colten  
Opposed: None  
Ineligible: None  
Absent: Rogoff, Gulick

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

### **Volunteer Proposal – Tree Trimming in JPP**

Members discussed the proposal of volunteer tree trimming in Joe Palaia Park submitted by resident Denise Buckley. The proposal states that a group of volunteer residents will sign up for designated dates to clear brush, trim branches, remove vines, etc. in areas of the park that are in need of attention with a focus mainly on the Deal and Whale Pond Road area. The proposal also states that the volunteers will be required to bring their own equipment and tools and will also have to sign a waiver stating that the Township has no liability in the event that an injury or accident occurs. Members discussed the merit of the proposal as well as any suggestions they have on the program. Member Mary Johnson believed the program to be a good and beneficial idea, but advised that they look into how the DPW already manages the park and check to see if any conflicts could potentially arise. Member Norman Colten agreed with Johnson that the program is a good idea and stated there would only be minor risks such as poison ivy. He went on to suggest that if heavy machinery or power tools are needed for some of the trimmings, a request for DPW assistance can be put in place. Chairwoman Laurel Von Gerichten pointed out that there was no mention of training for the residents and therefore suggested that the Shade Tree Commission become involved and possibly use the Shade Tree Fund to pay for training sessions for both residents and DPW employees who help with the program. She also posed the question if chemicals should be used to paint the stumps in order to stop vines from growing back. Member Ray Pogwist explained that no chemical sprays can be used as the Township has an ordinance against the use of herbicides. However, there could be other, more organic methods that could be used to ensure the vines do not grow back. Colten offered to coordinate with both Denise and the Commission in order to come up with a plan that addresses the above concerns. Associate Ken Lutz stated that once a plan is agreed upon, the proposal should be presented to the Mayor and Township Manager in order to have proper policies and procedures put in place.

### **CFMP Assignments**

Due to time, this topic was tabled for the September meeting.

- Tree Related Ordinances – Ray
- Increase Forest Canopy –
- Strengthen the Presence of the STC on Township Website – Norman
- Improve Communication between STC & Township – Laurel
- Increase Community Outreach – Mary
- Evaluate Current Hazard Tree Inventory – Hank

## **BUDGET:**

**CONCERNS:** Member Mary Johnson explained that many summer residents and new home owners in the Township are cutting down trees and asked if there was anything the Commission could do to prevent this in the future. Members discussed the possibility of being notified whenever the Housing Department issues Certificates of Occupancy for properties. By doing so, the Commission can not only welcome them into the Township, but also inform them of the Township rules, regulations, and ordinances especially those on tree removal.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Maloney  
Secretary