

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

**OCTOBER 3, 2013**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

The Regular Meeting was held in the Manager's Conference room, Town Hall, 399 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chairwoman Von Gerichten  
Member(s) Pogwist, Kliem  
Alternate Gordon  
Associate Lutz

**Absent:** Member(s) Colten, Blejwas  
Associate(s) Rogoff, Gulick

**Others:** Amanda Norakus, Secretary  
Bob Lee – JCP&L, Forestry Manager  
Jim Markey – JCP&L, Area Manager  
Maggie Boyce, 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 7, 2013.

A motion to adopt the July 11, 2013 minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist.

In Favor: Kliem, Pogwist, Von Gerichten, Gordon  
Opposed: None  
Ineligible: Lutz  
Absent: Blejwas, Rogoff, Gulick, Colten

A motion to adopt the September 23, 2013 special meeting minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist.

In Favor: Kliem, Pogwist, Von Gerichten, Gordon  
Opposed: None  
Ineligible: Lutz

Absent: Blejwas, Rogoff, Gulick, Colten

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

### **Jersey Central Power & Light Presentation**

Bob Lee, Forestry Manager and Jim Markey, Area Manager presented the company's policy on tree pruning and tree selection underneath the power lines. JCP&L follows a four year cycle for tree maintenance. The company is responsible for 12,000 miles of lines; therefore, trims 3,000 miles of lines yearly. The heights of the light poles are thirty five to forty feet with an eight foot crossbar. The company trims a fifteen foot radius around the pole and wires in order to ensure clearance and safety for the four years until they return.

JCP&L strives to avoid "topping" of trees in order to preserve the health of the trees. Instead, they use directional pruning to keep the tree growing healthy, but forces the tree to grow away from the wires.

The company contacts homeowners approximately one week before trimming occurs to explain the process. In addition, contact information is given if the homeowner needs to discuss specific concerns.

### **Property along Deal Lake & N. Edgemere Drive Park**

Resident, Maggie Boyce, expressed her objective to increase the number of larger native trees in this area. She had requested the township discontinue mowing in this area, which has permitted the natural progression of trees to grow. She requested the Township review two storm damaged trees for pruning of dead wood. It was decided among the Commissioners to work on developing an approach to such sites to maintain such areas properly.

### **Planting recommendation from township**

A request came from Township Manager, Andrew Brannen, to ask that the commission approve the replanting of three purple plum trees in Wayside Park. The members discussed and decided to recommend planting 1 ½" to 2" caliper trees. Three bids will be requested for both purchase and installation price. Laurel Von Gerichten made a motion to recommend the Shade Tree Fund be used for the project. It was seconded by Ray Pogwist.

In Favor: Kliem, Pogwist, Von Gerichten, Gordon  
Opposed: None  
Ineligible: Lutz  
Absent: Blejwas, Rogoff, Gulick, Colten

## ITEMS FOR UPDATES:

### **Pilot Replanting Project**

The wooded area behind Ellen Court was discussed. Laurel Von Gerichten, Chairwoman, met with Township Manager, Andrew Brannen, to discuss details of the project. Mr. Brannen asked that guidelines be written up to clarify how Township lands such as this one would be maintained over time. For example, once the initial cleanup of invasive vines is done, what procedures should be followed to see that the vines do not return, and that the saplings that would be planted there are healthy? The Commission will draw up guidelines to address this concern.

Information from the Township's insurance company will be sought on how volunteers participating in maintenance activities can be covered, such as having a maintenance event with an insurance waiver.

### **Hazard Tree Inventory**

The proposed letter to notify homeowners of the tree hazard(s) in front of their properties was reviewed with the township manager. The letter will be forwarded on to Code Enforcement Official, Tom Caruso, for mailing. It was decided a small group of residents would be notified at a time, probably 25. Laurel urged that priority notification be given to those residents whose tree(s) present an immediate hazard.

### **Comments:**

Ray Pogwist mentioned his discussion with a Logan Road resident regarding tree replanting. Multiple trees had been removed due to sidewalk improvements. Ray recommended the Commission target areas for replanting, such as those where trees have been removed due to Township projects such as sidewalk installations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Norakus  
Secretary