

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

**NOVEMBER 7, 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

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

**Others:** Amanda Norakus, Secretary  
Mary Johnson, Resident  
Diane Surmonte, Resident  
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 October 3, 2013 minutes was made by Ray Pogwist and seconded by Hank Kliem.

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**NJ Shade Tree Federation**

Ray Pogwist, Laurel Von Gerichten, and Mary Johnson attended the 2013 New Jersey Shade Tree Federation conference. They all shared their feedback regarding the conference. Mary attended the core training course. Laurel and Ray

attended the course for assessing trees for decay. A key point Laurel shared was the need for a 5x5x3 foot pit for trees to be planted. This is an issue seen in town where there is planting occurring near sidewalks.

### **Alternate Member**

The members discussed their comments of nominating Mary Johnson as an alternate for the commission. It was decided to recommend her nomination to Andrew Brannen, Township Manager.

### **“Growing and Maintaining the Urban Forest in Ocean Township”**

The mayor and council are in favor of the Shade Tree Commission’s proposal to increase the canopy. The members discussed where the responsibility would fall for the initial replant as well as maintenance. The members agree one of the most important components to a successful program is the consistency in follow through and maintenance. It was decided Laurel Von Gerichten would present the proposal to township manager, Andrew Brannen, for feedback and questions.

### **Old Oak Park**

The members read and discussed the proposal composed by resident, Maggie Boyce. The proposed plan included the increase of canopy by planting trees such as oaks and maples. The first step is determining what portion of the property is owned by the county versus what portion of the property is owned by the township. Secondly, a plan would be created of what trees would be planted and where. Lastly, the commission would propose these recommendations to the township.

### **Hazard Tree Inventory**

Code enforcement officer, Tom Caruso, will be responsible for mailing the necessary homeowners a notification of the hazardous trees. It was decided to not mail out letters of potential hazards because it would not be possible for follow up.

### **Pilot Replanting Project**

It was decided that the woods behind Ellen Court would be put on hold.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Norakus  
Secretary