

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

March 6, 2014

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, Blejwas
Alternate(s) Johnson
Associate(s) Lutz

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

Others: Maggie Boyce, Resident
Jack Kearns, Resident
Kate Maloney, Secretary

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.

REVIEW:

1. March 6, 2014 minutes
2. Agenda
3. Budget – No Updates
4. Correspondence – None

A motion to adopt the March 6, 2014 minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Tree Recovery Campaign: Tree Giveaway

The members reviewed the program and current plans. The Tree Giveaway will be held on April 5th between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at BJ's Wholesale Club. They will be giving away 2500 seedlings consisting of 7 different types of species. Each resident will be allowed up to 5 seedlings, but can take less depending on the size of the property. If there are any leftover seedlings, the members agreed that they will be planted in Joe Palaia Park and will be protected by 2 rows of snow fence.

Community Forestry Management Plan

Laurel Von Gerichten introduced the third draft of the Community Forestry Management Plan. The commission spent time reviewing the mission statement, goals & objectives, and the tree service requests & decision diagram. Appropriate changes and grammatical corrections were made.

Changes to the Mission Statement

- The Commission shall establish appropriate policies & procedures and implement appropriate rules, regulations, and actions necessary to uphold its mission.

Changes to Goals and Objectives

- Review the Township's Tree Related Ordinances (2014)
 - a. "Explore the uses for Shade Tree Fund" (2014)
- Increase the Forest Canopy and maintain the community forest resource (2014-2018)
 - b. "Identify and raise awareness of any threats in a timely manner (insects, disease, invasives)"
- Improve communication between Township tree related activities & the STC (2014-2018)
- Increase Community Outreach (2014-2018)
- Evaluate the current hazard tree inventory
 - a. Assess the inventory in quadrant 1.
 - b. Assess effectiveness of whole program and if it was implemented.
- Trees removed in the Township ROW should be replanted with new trees.
 - a. Write a CSIP grant to replant with new trees, those that have been removed from ROW.

Changes to Tree Service Requests

- The decision matrix diagram needs to be reviewed and adjusted. Once done, the tree service request section needs to be reworded to correlate with the changed diagram.

- The wording next to the picture of Wanamassa should be attributed to Ray Pogwist instead of Laurel Von Gerichten.

Changes to Public Education, Awareness & Outreach

- Arbor Day Celebrations: “The Shade Tree Commission has given trees away to third grade students for more than 25 years”.
- Scout Groups and School Activities: “The Shade Tree Commission involves the three elementary public schools in the Arbor Day celebrations”.

Changes to Tree Budget

- Statement of Tree Budget: Figures in the different categories need to be supplied from the DPW.
- Grants and Donations: omission of the first paragraph. (The tree donation program and plaques are no longer done.)

Changes to Plan Implementation

- Statement of Plan Implementation: make to correspond with goals.

Changes to Ocean Township Tree Canopy Cover

- This section needs to correspond to the Canopy study conducted by Global Ecosystem Center LLC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Maloney
Secretary