

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

April 2, 2015

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, Kliem
Alternate(s) Boyce
Associate(s)

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

Others: 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 May 2, 2014.

REVIEW:

1. March 12, 2015 minutes
2. Agenda
3. Budget – No Updates
4. Correspondence – None

A motion to adopt the March 12, 2015 minutes was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Tree Sale

Members discussed the final preparations for the Sandy Recovery Tree Sale scheduled for April 18th at the Township Community Pool on West Park Avenue. Chairwoman Von Gerichten explained to the members that the deer protection will be delivered to Town Hall the Thursday before the sale. Member Hank Kliem stated the DPW will be delivering both the deer protection and the tree orders the day of. Secretary, Kate Maloney, explained to members that most of the order forms received from residents are for the smaller tree options (Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, Sweetbay, and Red Maple). Members then discussed what to do with the leftover larger trees. Kliem explained that any leftovers can be planted throughout the town on Township property. Von Gerichten stated that some links for the Tree Sale on the Township website are not working properly, but she and member Moshe Gordon are working with the Town to remedy the situation. Member Ray Pogwist stated that there are flyers being posted around town as well as in the local newspapers. He explained that he will work on having publicity the day of.

Shade Tree Fund – pruning / removal of trees & planting

Chairwoman Von Gerichten explained to members that while the Shade Tree Fund is useful in the removal of trees, it would be more pragmatic if used for the planting and maintenance of new trees as well. Members proposed that if trees are removed from Township owned land, that a replacement tree should be planted. Chairwoman Von Gerichten suggested that the Commission meet with the Township Manager and Mayor to present a thorough proposal.

Right of Way (ROW) vs. Street Trees'

Chairwoman Von Gerichten explained to members that the Commission has jurisdiction over the removal of Right of Way trees only. For public land, the Township is now advising that no trees be planted in the Right of Way due to branches becoming hazardous and trees growing with utility wires above and underground. Member Ray Pogwist suggested the compromise that the Township plant London Plane Trees in those areas. However, member Hank Kliem stated that while that type of tree works well in the Right of Way areas, it is prone to diseases and the maintenance becomes costly.

Communication with the Township

Members discussed the communication problems they are experiencing with the Township. Chairwoman Von Gerichten explained that there needs to be more of a presence of the Shade Tree Commission on the Township website in order for residents to be more informed. She stated that with any new events or projects, the Commission should be in communication with the Township in advance in order to have more visibility and easier access on the website for residents to find the information.

CONCERNS:
ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Maloney
Secretary