

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

October 1, 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, Johnson
Alternate(s) Boyce
Associate(s)

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

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 June 8, 2014.

REVIEW:

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

A motion to adopt the September 3, 2015 minutes was made by Mary Johnson and seconded by Ray Pogwist

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

October Conference

Members discussed the upcoming Shade Tree Federation Conference for October 23rd and 24th. Chairwoman Von Gerichten proposed the Commission allocate \$300 for 2 members to attend. This would cover mileage and admission. A motion to approve the proposed \$300 was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist.

In Favor: Von Gerichten, Pogwist, Johnson

Opposed: None

Ineligible: Boyce, Gaudette

Absent: Colten, Kliem, Lutz, Rogoff, Gulick, Gordon

Members' CFMP Assignments

- Tree Related Ordinances – Ray

Member Ray Pogwist explained to the Commission that he will be working on improving the Township ordinances relating to the planting, removal, and care of trees. He stated that he would like to include new, more informative sections detailing how the Township along with the Shade Tree Commission should handle tree issues and complaints. He used section 9-2.11 *Protection of Existing Trees* as an example, stating the Shade Tree Commission should have more influence and authority over the protection of existing trees on construction sites. He also explained that he would like to include new sections to the ordinance in regards to planting in the Right of Way and will work with the Township to figure out the best ways to do this.

- Increase Forest Canopy – Maggie

Alternate Maggie Boyce discussed her portion with members and stated that she will be working with the Township as well as Board of Education for better care of existing trees on public and school grounds. She explained that certain relatively new trees on the school grounds have already died due to lack of care.

- Strengthen the Presence of the STC on Township Website – Norman

Member Norman Colten was absent from the meeting.

- Improve Communication between STC & Township – Laurel

Chairwoman Von Gerichten explained she is also still working on her portion of the Community Forestry Management Plan.

- Increase Community Outreach – Mary

Member Mary Johnston suggested to members that she write an article on the section of the ordinance that member Ray Pogwist detailed earlier; section 9-2.11 *Protection of Existing Trees*. She explained that it will be an educational article to inform residents of how to handle and properly maintain existing trees.

- Evaluate Current Hazard Tree Inventory – Hank

Member Hank Kliem was absent from the meeting.

Hazardous Tree Inventory Letter

Laurel Von Gerichten explained to members that the Shade Tree Commission should not be involved with the residents for any issues they may have with the hazardous tree letters. She explained that the Township should assign any inspections needed with residents for the hazardous trees to someone in the Township; possibly Code Enforcement. If for any reason the resident should disagree with the letter, they can hire their own certified tree expert to inspect the tree in question.

Planting at Joe Palaia Park

Chairwoman Von Gerichten explained to members that a resident inquired about the possibility of planting a tree in memory of a loved one at Joe Palaia Park. She asked members if the Commission could take on the responsibility or if this would be a task better suited for the Dept of Public Works. Member Ray Pogwist suggested that the DPW assume responsibility and contact the STC for guidance. Alternate Maggie Boyce suggested that the Town assign a person or persons to run a program in which tree plantings on public lands would be their main objective. Member Mary Johnson made a suggestion that the Commission ask for volunteers to work with the DPW to help with plantings. Members ultimately decided that it should be DPW's responsibility and the STC should be advisory.

2016 Budget

The members reviewed the budget for 2015 in order to finalize the proposed 2016 budget. The following was decided:

Shade Tree Federation Conference: \$500
Workshops: \$500
Arbor Day Seedlings: \$100
Memberships-NJ Tree Federation: \$150 (confirmed with S.T. Fed)
Hazardous Tree Inventory 2nd quadrant: \$2500
Total: \$3,750

This figure is \$1,750 over last year's budget.

A motion to approve the proposed 2016 budget was made by Laurel Von Gerichten and seconded by Ray Pogwist

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

CONCERNS:
ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Maloney
Secretary