

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

**September 3, 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, Colten, Kliem, Johnson  
Alternate(s) Boyce, Gordon  
Associate(s) Lutz

**Absent:** Member(s)  
Alternate(s)  
Associate(s) 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. July 2, 2015 minutes
2. Agenda
3. Budget – No Updates
4. Correspondence – None

A motion to adopt the July 2, 2015 minutes was made by Maggie Boyce and seconded by Moshe Gordon

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

## **October Conference**

Laurel Von Gerichten explained to members that the Shade Tree Federation will be hosting their annual Conference on October 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> at Bailey's Casino in Atlantic City. Some topics to be discussed are Invasive Species, Novel Landscapes, Integrative Pest Management, Tree Root Systems, and Retrenchment Reduction. Von Gerichten encouraged members to attend stating that the seminars will be both interesting and informative.

## **Members' CFMP Assignments**

- **Tree Related Ordinances – Ray**

Member Ray Pogwist explained to the Commission that he is still working on his portion of the Community Forestry Management Plan. Pogwist asked members if the Commission would want more influence and responsibility for public/township lands, street/ROW trees, etc. Chairwoman Von Gerichten suggested that the Commission focus on the removal aspect, but also have more action with tree plantings. Pogwist stated he will review the current Township Ordinance as well as the CFMP.

- **Increase Forest Canopy – Maggie**

Alternate Maggie Boyce discussed her portion with members and stated she would like to have a tree planting project sometime in the Fall. She explained that the township field on Monmouth Road next to The White House would be a good area to plant a meadow as well as plant a few more trees. However, member Hank Kliem stated that this would be a problem because that land is a drainage/retention area. Both will look into the matter.

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

Member Norman Colten explained that he is still working on his portion. Alternate Moshe Gordon volunteered to help Colten with this project.

- **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 stated that she is still in contact with a few groups to possibly have forums/seminars open to residents on tree related issues. She also explained that she is still researching articles to put on the website. Johnson said she would like to have the topics of each article correlate with the seasons in which they are posted.

- **Evaluate Current Hazard Tree Inventory – Hank**

Member Hank Kliem explained he is still working on his section of the CFMP.

## **Hazardous Tree Inventory Letter**

The Commission members reviewed the approved Hazardous Tree letter and deemed it was okay to send out to residents. The letter will provide specific information for hazardous trees on certain properties in Quadrant II of the Township.

### **Township Calendar**

Secretary Kate Maloney explained to members that the Township will be creating their yearly calendar and both the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions will have their own page. She stated that the page will have both a small explanation of the Commissions, its responsibilities, and details of their past and future events. The page will also require a picture which could be of specific projects the Commissions were involved in or possibly pictures of certain tree species.

### **CONCERNS:**

Mary Johnson brought to the attention of the Commission that the trees planted at the township library are possibly dying due to the drought. Member Ray Pogwist stated that they should look into water bags for the trees in order to keep them from dying. Laurel stated that the trees had been planted in 2010 and by now should be self-sustaining. The water bag on one of the trees has not been filled this year; if the trees fail to thrive given that they had been watered regularly to get them established for two years after planting, then maybe they ought to be replaced.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Maloney  
Secretary