

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

**December 2, 2021**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

The Regular Meeting was a virtual meeting held on GoTo Meeting beginning at approximately 7:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Chairperson: Norman Colten  
Member(s): Moshe Gordon, Stephen Gaudette, Hank Kliem, Jack Kearns  
Alternate II: Ken Lutz  
Public: Patty Cronheim  
Liaison: Margie Donlon, Councilwoman

**Absent:** Member(s):  
Alternate I: Michelle Crosta  
  
Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Michael Davenport, Ed DiFiglia,  
Laurel Von Gerichten

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW:**

Chairman Colten 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, The Coaster, and News 12 New Jersey and posted in Town Hall and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk on June 30, 2021.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Motion to approve November's minutes was moved by Member Kearns; seconded by Member Kliem. All were in Favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BUDGET:** None discussed

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None received

**REVISED TREE ORDINANCE:** No update

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1) **HAZARDOUS TREE EVALUATIONS & PROCESS:**

**A.) 15 Jerome Smith Dr:**

The resident contacted the township regarding two trees growing (leaning) towards and over their property from the adjacent township owned parcel. They are concerned for the safety of their children. Member Kliem and Chairperson Colten assessed the two trees and another, which has had a large portion of its top snapped off. Both members agree that it is in the best interest of safety to remove the two original trees in question and trim the third tree.

A motion for Member Kliem to get quotes for removal was moved by Member Kearns, seconded by Member Gaudette. All were in favor.

**B.) 40 Lambert Johnson Dr:**

The residents at this address expressed concerns about a tree on a Green Acres property behind their home. They are seeking permission to remove it due to their concerns about its condition and the thought that it is tall enough to potentially damage their home if it were to fall. Based on an assessment done by both Chairperson Colten and Member Kliem, the tree seems to be in good health and no actions will be taken to remove the tree at this time. The tree will be monitored and reassessed in the spring.

**C.) Blk 25 lot 79 – Belmar Ave:**

A concern was raised from a neighboring resident regarding a leaning tree on a township-owned vacant lot. Both Chairperson Colten and Member Kliem inspected the tree in question and found no immediate concerns that it might do damage to any property. Member Kliem believes it to be fairly stable and can be left alone. Chairperson agrees with Member Kliem's assessment.

**D.) 9 Barbara Ln – Tree Evaluation Fireman's Field Park:**

Member Kliem received an estimate from Monmouth County Shared Services for an evaluation of trees in the Oakhurst Fireman's Field area. The estimate was for \$409.55 Per day with the work expected to total seven days. A copy of the quote will be forwarded to STC members. After some discussion testing the system with a smaller effort. Member Gaudette made a motion to allocate up to \$1,000.00 to be spent to have Monmouth County Shared Services do the work for two days and then determine what's next. Seconded by Member Kearns. All were in favor.

**E.) 517 Belmont Ave:**

No update.

**F.) 33 Oxford Ln:**

Member Kliem went back to the property to re-evaluate the trees. He found a tree leaning onto another. These trees did not seem to be in an area near anyone's property. Member Kliem asked for another ST member to meet him there to help assess the situation and decide what course of action should be taken. Chairperson Colten will go to assess the location.

### **G.) 1502 Romain Pkwy:**

A letter was sent informing the residents that there were no hazardous trees or branches that need to be addressed at this time. They were also informed that under the Township's ordinance, property owners are allowed to remove tree branches overhanging their property line if they desire.

### **2) NJUCF STEWARDSHIP GRANT:**

Ocean Township Shade Tree Commission will be awarded a grant for up to \$50,000. A virtual meeting was held between Ocean Township personnel and DEP Community Forestry personnel to discuss the grant. It was decided that the grant funds would be used to survey trees on various township properties. This survey will include mostly separate trees and not trees in a more wooded or forest situation. Samples were received of RFP's that other towns have used for surveys to use as a baseline for creating the Ocean Township RFP. Before any of this can happen, there has to be a grant agreement between Ocean Township and the DEP. After this Resiliency Planning Grant effort is completed, the STC can apply for a Reforestation or Tree Planting grant of up to \$250,000 for tree planting.

### **3) NJUCF CORE TRAINING:**

Member Gaudette completed and passed the required Core training. Member Kearns has started the Core training, but has had some technical difficulty accessing the program. His training is still in process and he hopes to finish in January.

NJUCF Accreditation requires a minimum of two people in a municipality to be core trained. One person must be a municipal employee. One person must be a Shade Tree Commission member, board member, or volunteer from the municipality working with trees. There are many individuals in the Township who are core trained, but only one is a municipal employee. Chairperson Colten will encourage an effort to get more municipal employees to be core trained.

### **4) Spotted Lantern Fly:**

No update

### **5.) Street Tree Considerations:**

No update

### **6) COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:**

Member Kearns will work together with Chairperson Colten on an article for the township's bi annual newsletter, informing the residents about the STC and to seek new members.

## **7) COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

No update

## **8) Membership:**

Member Hank Kliem will no longer be a member of the STC as of December 31, 2021, but will still be involved. Member Kliem's new role as a township employee will now become the Liaison between the township and the STC.

Patty Cronheim will be an incoming new voting member of the STC starting January 1, 2022. Mrs. Cronheim is employed by the League of Conservation Voters. She has extensive experience in environmental work and is very motivated in serving the township.

## **CONCERNS:**

Members Gaudette and Lutz voiced concerns regarding topsoil piled around a tree located at the construction site at the corner of Hwy. 35 and Deal Rd. The concern is not only about damage the dirt mound can cause, but, also, about the damage that heavy machinery can cause to the roots of the tree while removing the dirt. Ron Kirk has contacted the developer on site and will have engineers come and assess the situation.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made to adjourn by Member Gaudette; seconded by Member Kearns. All were in favor

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary