

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

**May 6, 2021**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** The Regular Meeting was a virtual meeting held on Go To Meeting beginning at 7:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Chairperson: Norman Colten

Member(s): Stephen Gaudette, Jack Kearns, Hank Kliem,

Alternate II(s): Ken Lutz

Associate(s):

Others: Mark Disakias, DPW Interim Director, Jackie Wenzel, resident

**Absent:**

Member(s): Moshe Gordon

Alternate I (s): Michelle Crosta

Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Laurel Von Gerichten, Michael Davenport, Ed DiFiglia

Liaison: Margie Donlon, Councilwoman

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

Norman 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 July 31, 2020.

**REVIEW:**

**READING OF AGENDA.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Motion to approve as amended by Member Kearns; seconded by Member Lutz. All were in Favor.

**BUSINESS:**

**BUDGET:**

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None received

**REVISED TREE ORDINANCE:** No update

**STREET TREE CONSIDERATIONS:** No update

**COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Chairperson Colten will send the **2019** Community Forestry annual report to Mark Disakias, Director of DPW. Chairperson Colten needs to obtain cost data for the 2020 Community Forestry annual report such as for DPW training, leaf and brush collection, etc.

**INVASIVE VINE REMOVAL AT JOE PALAIA PARK:** Chairperson Colten spoke with a church group interested in volunteering to help with any environmental projects in town. Chairperson Colten has scheduled them to help with an invasive vine removal project on May 23, 2021. We need someone with a certified pesticide applicator's license to use Roundup to permanently kill the vines. The Township has only one licensed pesticide handler who will be unavailable. Mark Disakias, DPW suggested marking the cut vines with spray paint, which the DPW will provide, if no one is available to use Roundup so the vines can be identified at a later time and treated appropriately. Mr. Disakias also stated that additional township employees will be sent to get their pesticide applicator certification as soon as Rutgers opens up. He also will help to find a certified local contractor who may be willing to help.

## **HAZARDOUS TREE EVALUATIONS & PROCESS:**

**56 Dune Rd:** Upon the Community Development department receiving a phone call from the resident at the referenced address stating that a tree in the Right-of-Way is dead/damaged/dying, Hank Kliem was contacted. After thorough examination it was determined the tree should be removed. An official letter will be prepared and sent to the resident allowing them to remove the tree.

**189 Ampere Ave:** Hank Kliem stated that the residents want to remove a tree in the Right-of-Way. They have a building permit, and the application they sent for tree removal doesn't say anything about the construction at all. The tree is not in the way of their construction. Meanwhile, soil has been piled up against this tree. If they prune the tree instead of remove it, the tree won't be in any way, shape or form in the way of their build. It's a perfectly healthy tree and should not be removed.

**518 Beechwood Ave:** Hank Kliem received an application to remove a huge oak tree in the front yard of the property that overhangs the Right-of-Way. Hank stated that it appears to be healthy and sees no reason the resident should be allowed to take it down. It could be pruned. There are two Norway maples near the curb line that appear to have reached their limit of usefulness. We can allow them to remove the maples while leaving the oak alone.

**515 Wildwood Rd:** A request was received to remove a tree in the Right-of-Way because the roots were pushing up the sidewalk. Pictures were taken and sent to the ST Commission members ahead of the meeting. Both Hank and Norm agree with allowing the resident to remove the tree based on its condition. Upon inspection, another tree on the property was noted to be in bad condition as well. An official letter will be sent that gives permission for the removal of both trees.

**Questions:** Jackie Wenzel, resident; "Is it the township's policy that they have you go and look when the homeowners want to take a tree down"?

**Response(s):** Chairperson Colten; It's been done that way for years when the tree in question is in the Right-of-Way or overhanging the Right-of-Way.

Member Kliem; I get assigned to look at every tree removal application, any issues with trees on township land and Right-of-Ways. I also get sent out when phone calls are received about tree companies working. I go investigate whether or not they are doing work within the ordinance or need to get a permit. If I have to stop them from working, I do so.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:**

### **Community Tree Recovery Program:**

Free Tree distribution took place Sunday, April 25, 2021 between 10am-2pm. Sign up for this event started off slow but thanks to social media and help from others spreading the word, it was a success. Approximately 475 out of 500 trees were given away to the community, with approximately 25 bald cypress trees leftover. These have been potted and hopefully will be planted around town at a later date.

### **Trees for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders:**

The Shade Tree Commission purchased a little over 650 trees for the Townships 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders who were unable to receive trees last year due to Covid-19. These trees were distributed throughout the township's school system, Hillel school & Search Day program. Varieties included red maple & northern oak.

## **CONCERNS:**

## **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

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

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary