

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

September 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): Jack Kearns, Moshe Gordon, Stephen Gaudette
Alternate II(s): Ken Lutz
Associate(s):

Others: James Veach, Township resident

Absent: Member(s): Hank Kliem
Alternate I (s): Michelle Crosta
Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Michael Davenport, Ed DiFiglia,
Laurel Von Gerichten
Liaison: Margie Donlon, Councilwoman

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 August's minutes as amended by Member Lutz; seconded by Member Kearns. Members Gaudette and Gordon abstained. All others 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.) 1103 Brookside Ave:

Upon receiving a request from the homeowner for removal of a tree they felt to be a hazard, Hank Kliem visited the site to inspect. After making his observations, Hank deemed the tree to be in decline and found it also to be in the ROW, therefore the jurisdiction of the STC. Hank alerted Chairperson Colten and submitted pictures of the declining condition. Chairperson Colten and the STC all voted in favor of allowing tree removal by the resident.

B.) 217 Belmont Ave:

Code Enforcement informed the resident that the sidewalk in front of their home was in need to be replaced. Upon inspection by the homeowner's contractor, they found two trees in the ROW to be the cause of the damaged sidewalk. One tree is in decline and the other in reasonable condition. Chairperson Colten and member Kilem discussed how the better tree might be saved if the new sidewalk were re-routed around the tree. Re-routing may require more than it would be able to be saved. The decision to re-route the sidewalk may require the Township's engineer's evaluation. Member Kliem will contact the appropriate people to move the project along. Approval for the homeowner to remove the unhealthy tree was moved by Chairperson Colten; all were in Favor.

C.) 31 Wanamassa Pt Rd:

The homeowner has a declining tree in his front yard and was inquiring if the Township had a program to help with the cost of the removal and replanting of a new tree. Chairperson Colten explained there was no such program in town and the Township's responsibility is solely trees on Township property, i.e. the ROW. Chairperson Colten informed the resident that it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain and or remove trees on their property. The STC were all in Favor of the homeowner removing the declining tree on their property. A list of acceptable replacement trees was shared with the homeowner.

D.) 9 Wanamassa Pt Rd:

The homeowner called and asked if someone could inspect a leaning tree in the front yard of their property to determine whether or not it should be removed. Hank Kliem went to the address to inspect the tree, but found no tree in the front yard or ROW. Upon speaking to the homeowner further, the tree in concern was not located in the front yard or ROW but on the side of the house. This is not the jurisdiction of the STC.

2) NJUCF STEWARDSHIP GRANT:

The grant was completed and successfully submitted. No word as of yet whether or not it has been approved.

3) NJUCF CORE TRAINING:

The expenditure of finances for NJUCF training was voted on. Chairperson Colten moved to approve the amount of \$30.00 per person and not to exceed \$60.00 total of funds to be used for STC members Steve Gaudette and Jack Kearns to attend core training. Seconded by Member Kearns; all were in Favor.

4) STREET TREE CONSIDERATIONS:

No update.

5) COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:

No update.

6) COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN:

No Update.

7) 2021 NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference:

Chairperson Colten to get information on the upcoming conference and notify STC.

CONCERNS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The STC needs to get 8 Continuation of Education Units by the end of the year. It would be beneficial to have it done early as opposed to be rushed at the end of December. Chairperson Colten will forward some CEU information to the STC.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary