

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

**JANUARY 7, 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): Hank Kliem, Stephen Gaudette, Jack Kearns  
Alternate(s): Ken Lutz  
Associate(s):  
Others: Jennifer Nordstrom, Secretary  
Earl Jackson, Resident  
Don Brockel, Resident  
Margie Donlon, Town Council

**Absent:** Member(s): Moshe Gordon  
Alternate(s): Michelle Crosta  
Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Laurel Von Gerichten  
Liason: Mayor Christopher Siciliano

**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, 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 by Ken Lutz; seconded by Steve Gaudette. All were in Favor.

**BUSINESS:**

Chairman Colten reported that Shade Tree Commission satisfied its 2020 CEU requirements.

**BUDGET:**

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None received

## **REVISED TREE ORDINANCE:**

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

18 Dover Ave—Hank Kliem reported there is a long history with this tree for several years. Current homeowner just moved in and is concerned about the tree. The tree borders 18 Dover Ave and town-owned property. Kliem suggested an LTE be hired to look at this tree and make a final determination. It was decided that Kliem will get some estimates on pruning the tree and the Shade Tree Commission can make a decision at the next meeting how to proceed.

106 Bimble Blvd—Resident called in to Hank Kliem asking for assistance with a large tree in the ROW. It was determined by Kliem that the tree is mostly dead and will be a hazard very soon. After looking at pictures shared by Norm Colten, there is a similar tree in a neighboring yard that looks to be in the same shape. It was decided Shade Tree Commission should send a letter to the resident, advising her to communicate with her neighbor and both may be able to hire a tree service to come and remove both at the same time. While the Town has never assisted a homeowner financially in removing a tree, by the Shade Tree Commission recommending the tree be taken down this resident can avoid the cost and fees involved with obtaining a permit.

1117 Madison Avenue—Hank Kliem reports that complaints are received by DPW over and over again on this tree. A JCP&L Forester has been out to look at the tree and it was deemed not to be a hazard to their lines. These complaints continue to come in from neighbors not the Homeowner. Recent trimming was done to the tree this summer due to storm damage. Kliem feels very strongly about NOT making a recommendation on this tree, he feels it is necessary to have an LTE make that determination.

Lewis Tree Service--A list of areas in town that are scheduled to have tree trimming done by Lewis Tree Service was shared. The company was hired by JCP&L to trim trees in the area. Hank Kliem asked if the Shade Tree Commission would like a list of any trees that may be removed. He thought it may be helpful for the Community Forestry Report. Chairman Colten requested a list and dollar value if possible. Resident Don Brockel brought up the fact that several months ago JCP&L came through West Allenhurst and Allenhurst and marked several trees along Deal Lake to be removed. He suggested if when JCP&L does this, if they are not going to replace trees, perhaps they could put money back into the Shade Tree Commission fund. Resident Jacqui Wenzel asked if JCP&L needs permission to come in and do this work. Member Lutz thinks that a law was recently passed that no permission is needed. Chairman Colten will look into this further.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:**

Chairman Colten reported looking forward to doing the Third Grade Student Tree Program in 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, we will wait to make any plans for this as of now.

**COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

**CONCERNS:**

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made to adjourn by Member Jack Kearns; seconded by Member Hank Kliem. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer R. Nordstrom, Secretary