

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

August 5, 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): Jack Kearns
Alternate II(s): Ken Lutz
Associate(s):

Others:

Absent: Member(s): Hank Kliem, Moshe Gordon, and Stephen Gaudette
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:

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 June 30, 2021.

REVIEW MINUTES

Motion to approve July's minutes as amended by Member Kearns; seconded by Member Lutz. All were in Favor.

READING OF AGENDA

BUSINESS:

BUDGET: None discussed

CORRESPONDENCE: None received

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

REVISED TREE ORDINANCE: No update

1) HAZARDOUS TREE EVALUATIONS & PROCESS:

A.) 150 Roseld Ave:

Upon receiving a request from the homeowner for removal of a tree he feels is a hazard, the STC was alerted and Chairperson Colten will assess the tree and advise the homeowner.

2) NJUCF STEWARDSHIP GRANT:

The grant was completed and successfully submitted. The township will provide required funding match in-kind contributions (Township and volunteer man-hours at various rates). It is expected that a decision will be made by DEP in either August or September as to whether or not the STC will receive the Grant.

3) NJUCF CORE TRAINING:

The course will be available to be taken on-line. Members Gaudette and Kearns have not been trained as of yet and are eligible to take this course. Chairperson Colten will speak with Mark Disakias, DPW about having Township employees' core trained.

In order for the Township (and its employees and volunteers) to have full liability protection under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, at least one Township employee must be core trained.

4) STREET TREE CONSIDERATIONS:

No update.

5) COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:

The Mayor put a message on social media inviting residents to volunteer for the Planning and Zoning boards. The STC will reach out to Mayor Siciliano to ask if he would possibly do the same for the STC.

6) COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Revisions were made to the CFMP and sent to NJDEP ahead of the grant application being submitted. Though DEP has not yet determined its acceptability, it is expected that the revised Plans and Objectives will be used to evaluate the Township's NJUCF Stewardship grant application. Eventually DEP will review it and will decide whether or not the plan modifications are okay.

7) 2021 NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference:

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

CONCERNS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The Shade Tree fund has a balance of approximately \$180,000. These funds have been used for tree removals and maintenance on town property. The idea of the STF was that this money was in lieu of planting a tree on one's property. The town should be encouraged to use the funds for planting trees not maintenance. Chairperson Colten will schedule a meeting with David Brown, Town Manager to discuss the priorities of the funds.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary