

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

**MARCH 4, 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  
Alternate(s): Ken Lutz, Moshe Gordon  
Associate(s):  
Liaison:  
Others: Donna Oates, Secretary  
Michael Davenport

**Absent:** Member(s): Margie Donlon, Councilwoman, Hank Kliem  
Alternate(s): Michelle Crosta  
Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Laurel Von Gerichten

**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 Steve Gaudette; seconded by Jack Kearns. All were in Favor.

**BUSINESS:**

**BUDGET:**

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Michael Davenport presented his invasive vine removal project at the Town Council workshop Meeting and the Mayor and Council were very enthusiastic about it. Mayor Siciliano contacted the Coaster Newspaper and they interviewed Mr. Davenport and printed an article on it. The NJ Watershed Ambassador created an on-line link to sign up for the project, which Mr. Davenport shared on the meeting page.

Mr. Davenport also stated that the DPW was on board with the project and the Recreation Dept. okayed the date for no recreation events coinciding with the date of April 10<sup>th</sup>/rain date April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None received

## **REVISED TREE ORDINANCE:**

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

189 Ampere Ave—Chairperson Colten will contact the resident to inquire as to why they want to remove the Willow oak. He doesn't believe it to be unhealthy & doesn't think it should come down and will suggest for it to be pruned instead.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:**

Chairperson Colten spoke with a gentleman from the NJ Forestry Nursery (part of DEP) and submitted an application for 500 trees. This will consist of a mix of various trees packaged in bundles of 25.

The trees will then be divided into 5 per pack. This will provide enough trees for 100 or more township residents. Chairperson Colten also stated that he spoke with Pat Mercurio, Chairperson of Ocean Twp. Garden Club and they would be willing to help with either bundling and/or distributing trees. The date to distribute trees will be on the Sunday after Earth day, **April 25<sup>th</sup>**. As to the location where the trees will be distributed, it is yet to be determined. Chairperson Colten is looking into the best possible location for traffic flow and to safely distribute the trees as to be in compliance with Covid-19 guidelines. Also, trees for the township's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be worked out as usual with additional trees for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders who missed out as 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in 2020 due to Covid-19. The total number of students needs to be determined and plan to distribute the trees needs to be finalized.

### **COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

Contact surrounding towns to discuss possibly contracting a shared Forrester.

## **CONCERNS:**

-Who is in charge of Green Fest and when will it be held?

-The Meadow - Member Kearns was in contact with Jim Bay and was advised that the Meadow, next to the library, was due for a cleaning out again as per the State of New Jersey's guidelines. Present tree life needs to be removed to re-establish the grasses for the wildlife and nesting birds.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Don Brockel – is seeking help from the Shade Tree Commission to identify & markup bad trees Around Fireman's pond and Lollipop pond and have volunteers help remove bad trees.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made to adjourn by Alternate Ken Lutz; seconded by Member Jack Kearns. All in favor

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary