

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

NOVEMBER 3, 2022

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): Moshe Gordon, joined after roll called, Jack Kearns, Stephen Gaudette Patty Cronheim
Alternate I: Ken Lutz, joined after roll called
Alternate II: James Veach, joined after roll called
Liaison: Councilperson Margie Donlon, joined after roll called
Associate(s):
Others: Kevin Thompson, Twp. of Ocean Tree Enforcement Officer
Public:
Absent: Member(s):
Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Laurel Von Gerichten

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, 2022.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Motion to approve October 6, 2022 minutes was moved by Member Kearns; seconded by Alternate Lutz. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET:

No update.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1.) TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS & PERMITS:

Chairperson Colten asked Kevin Thompson, Tree Enforcement Officer, to give a briefing on the progression of the tree removal permit process. Kevin explained that the office is up to date with most submitted applications. There are a few pending due to completion issues by the applicant. The Township has issued approximately 20 permits. No permit is processed without payment. Permits are not being held, it's a one/two day turn over for approvals.

Building permits including tree removal are different than stand-alone tree removal permits.

Q: Patty Cronheim – How slow was the permit process compared to what it is now?

Kevin; there is no real understanding of what it was prior. But, pertaining to the ordinance guidelines now, there is a time limit of ten business days from when the application is received and time stamped, to decide if it's complete, then twenty more days to answer. The inspection of the trees in question are done as soon as possible after the applications are received.

If there is a disagreement on what has been determined, the resident has the opportunity to appeal.

2.) NJUCF STEWARDSHIP GRANT:

Trees throughout the town were counted jointly by Chairperson Colten and employees of the Public Works department, to see what should be surveyed for the grant. Between Palaia Park, golf course, library, and the schools, approximately 2,000 trees will be surveyed. However, there are a few other places Norm would still like to evaluate for the survey as well. He will visit and assess.

The purpose for applying for the grant was to get a survey of the trees on Ocean Township properties. This will be used as a basis for another grant to plant trees on these properties. In addition, we hope to get suggestions on what can be done about the damage from the deer population in Palaia Park.

The RFP is being worked on and will hopefully be completed soon.

Once this is done and the Grant is closed out, a new Grant for planting can be applied for.

3.) HAZARDOUS TREE EVALUATIONS AND PROCESS:

The trees that are in the ROW or overhang the ROW cannot be removed without the Shade Tree Commission's approval. There should be appropriate guidelines in the ordinance to properly address how the trees in the ROW should be processed and who is responsible.

4.) STREET TREE CONSIDERATIONS:

Kevin was in contact with the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission, and met with Steve Wiley, general foreman. They inspected three different locations, on Monmouth County roads, to possibly plant new trees in these spots. Kevin explained that the Township was interested in a spring planting, and asked if it would be a possibility that Monmouth County would be willing to plant trees in these locations.

5.) TREE ORDINANCE:

The Tree Ordinance will be re-evaluated and amendments discussed. Councilperson Donlon will compile any suggested changes to the Tree Ordinance, and present them to the Council at the January meeting.

6.) COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:

A joint committee for outreach was formed with the Environmental Commission. This is to form a plan of action on how to improve outreach about different topics such as; information on contractors, the tree ordinance, input from residents on places they think new trees should be planted, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONCERNS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

James Veach feels that the Township needs to do a better job on the website listing contractors. He feels a portal should be made for residents to be in contact with the Shade Tree/Environmental Commissions. Norm advised Jim that the email to contact the ST/EC appears on the Township's web page.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn by Member Kearns; seconded by

Member Cronheim. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary