

**West Cape May Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes  
Special Meeting  
February 27, 2021 -- 6 -7 PM  
Borough Hall**

**High Priorities**

Revised Tree Ordinance Publication

We anticipate the Tree Ordinance revisions will receive final approval from the Commissioners in early March. It was agreed that the ordinance revisions should be communicated to tree professionals and contractors (including general building contractors as well as specialists such as pool and shed installers). The exact nature of the communication is to be determined.

Tree Inventory

The Tree Inventory process includes a Five Year Plan regarding tree maintenance and replenishment. It was agreed that the implementation of this Plan is a high priority for the coming year. It is likely remain a high priority for several years to come. We will be able to more thoroughly discuss and plan for the implementation of the Five Year Plan after the upcoming presentation of the inventory results to the Shade Tree Commission. Plan funding will likely be a crucial factor.

Tree Replacement Follow-up

The group's discussion determined that there need to be processes put in place for tree replacement follow-up and enforcement, and that the processes should include both contractors and private homeowners.

RFP for Tree Pruning Services

In the near future, Wayne is meeting with the head of the Cape May Shade Tree Commission to discuss the process they used for determining an approved Tree Service for Cape May.

**Priority**

Vine Removal

The group felt that in 2020, we made good first steps in this effort. Susan has developed an outline for the structure and scope of this program going forward. The optimal time for vine removal is summer and fall.

**Combined Into Other Initiatives**

Street Tree Maintenance

Street Tree maintenance is a part of the Five Year Plan associated with the Tree Inventory. This becomes part of that initiative, rather than a stand- alone project.

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## **Shelved Initiatives**

### TD Bank Grant

The information regarding this Grant indicates that it could only be obtained to fund a new major initiative, such as the development of a new park. The group decided that this type of major undertaking needs to take a back seat to the high priority initiatives identified in this write-up (above). The exception to this would be if the Grant can be used to fund one of these High Priority initiatives (such as the implementation of the Tree Inventory Five Year Plan).

### Arbor Care Cost Containment

Off the list. The group came to the agreement that the cost saving would not be significant (perhaps \$1,200 a year), and as such, this should take a back seat to more pressing priorities.