

BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Borough of West Cape May Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Wayne Hoffman at 6:04 PM. This meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was sent to the Star and Wave and posted on the bulletin board in the foyer of Borough Hall, 732 Broadway, West Cape May, NJ.

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Members present: Lisa Bernstein, Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Bill McCray, and Bill Oetinger. Dave Hammond and Harry Schmidt were excused. Matt Notch and Parker Smith were absent.

Others present: Peter Burke, Deputy Mayor and Joe Knoll, resident, and Wilbraham volunteer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the minutes from the March 9, 2021 meeting, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Bill Oetinger and seconded by Bill McCray. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Oetinger reported a balance of \$85,854. A motion to accept the report was made by Susan Hoffman and seconded by Bill McCray. The report was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **439 Third**
The property owners requested the removal of pitch pine tree. The borough arborist visited the property on March 22, 2021. He recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with a small or medium size tree. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the recommendation. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved.
- **307 Fow**
The property owner requested the removal of a Bradford pear. The borough arborist visited the property on March 22, 2021. He recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with a large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved.
- **123 Broadway**
The property owner requested the removal of a London plane tree. The borough arborist visited the property on April 8, 2021. He recommended that the tree be

removed and replaced with a large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal. Bill McCray seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **131 Broadway**

The property owner requested the removal of a crab apple tree. The borough arborist visited the property on April 8, 2021. He recommended that the tree be removed and not replaced due to 75% canopy coverage on the property. Bill Oetinger made a motion to approve the removal. Lisa Bernstein seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **324 Broadway**

The property owner requested the removal of a weeping cherry tree. The borough arborist visited the property on April 8, 2021. He recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with a large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **169 Stimpson Lot #65**

The tenant requested the removal of two Norway spruce trees. The borough arborist visited the property on March 22, 2021. He recommended that the trees be removed and replaced with one small tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Bill Oetinger made a motion to approve the removal pending the approval of the trailer court owner. Bill McCray seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **729 Broadway Appeal**

The property owner appealed the commissioner's denial of March 9, 2021 to remove a sassafras tree. After reconsidering the proximity of the tree to the house, Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **211 Second**

A resolution by the WCM Commissioners affirming the denial to remove a maple tree at 211 Second Ave. was reviewed.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

- Joe Knoll was present.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Code Enforcement**

A certified letter will be sent to contractors informing them of the new ordinance.

- **Tree Inventory**

The final report meeting is scheduled for April 23 from 10 AM to 12 noon.

- **Future Initiatives**
A meeting of the subcommittee consisting of Bill Oetinger, Joe Knoll, and Wayne Hoffman will be set up in the future.
- **Arbor Day/Sapling Giveaway**
We will receive 1,000 saplings on April 28, 2021. The public giveaway is slated for May 4,5 and 6 at Borough Hall. Plans with WCM Elementary was still being finalized.
- **Spring Tree Planting**
A spring planting will be held. This will cover those on the waiting list from the fall planting. It is estimated that a total of 10 to 15 trees will be planted.
- **Tree Replacement List**
Wayne Hoffman will work with Justin Vitola on this.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tree City USA**
West Cape May has been named a Tree City for the 23rd consecutive year.
- **Spotted Lantern Flies**
Bill Oetinger reached out to the vineyard to see what measures they might be pursuing. No one has responded. In addition, he suggested we search the tree inventory for trees heaven planted in the borough. They are the host plant for spotted lantern flies.
- **Other**
Bill Oetinger noted that there is a large tree behind the WCM Elementary that is covered in vines. He suggested the vines be removed and perhaps use it as a teaching moment for the students. Peter Burke thought the tree was on a borough right of way.

Bill Oetinger also noted that there is tree on the corner of Third and Atlantic that is resting on the wires.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffman, Secretary