

BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2022

West Cape May Borough Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Borough of West Cape May Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Wayne Hoffman at 6:00 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 lobby of Borough Hall, 732 Broadway, West Cape May, NJ.

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Members present: Dave Hammond, Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Bill McCray, Matt Notch, Bill Oetinger, Harry Schmidt, and Barry Sullivan.

Others present: Peter Burke, Deputy Mayor, Rhiannon Worthington, Deputy Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Brady, Judy Smith (408 Third Ave.) and Valli Meeks (155 Leaming)

Wayne Hoffman led those present in the salute to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the meeting minutes from June 14, 2022, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Barry Sullivan and seconded by Bill Oetinger. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Oetinger reported a balance of \$90,711. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the report and Dave Hammond seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **155 Leaming Ave.**

This request had been tabled at the June meeting. The property owner requested the removal of a hackberry tree. The borough arborist visited the property on June 7, 2022 and recommended that the hackberry tree be removed. During discussion it was noted that the tree sits close to the property line. Therefore, approval by the adjacent property owner should be obtained. Eric George, the owner of 161 Leaming Ave., sent an email agreeing with the removal. Bill Oetinger made a motion to approve the removal and require the replacement of one small or medium tree. Barry Sullivan seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **335 Fifth Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of five trees. The borough arborist visited the property on July 6, 2022 and recommended that all the trees be removed and for each tree removed a large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees be planted. It was noted that the tree service operator might not be licensed. Therefore, this request was tabled while the status of the license is explored.

- **408 Fourth Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a sassafras tree. The borough arborist visited the property on July 6, 2022, and recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with one small or medium size tree. Bill Oetinger made a motion to approve the removal and Barry Sullivan seconded. The motion was approved with Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman and Matt Notch abstaining.

- **440 Fourth Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a sassafras tree. The request was tabled because the application stated that the homeowner was going to remove the tree themselves. A review of borough code found that is not allowed on a tree over six inches. Therefore, this request will be acted upon when a tree service operator is named.

- **117 Third Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of an arborvitae. The borough arborist visited the property on July 6, 2022 and recommended that the tree be removed. However, he noted that the tree appears to be a boundary tree and approval of the adjacent property owner is required. The request was tabled until the neighbor can be contacted.

- **135 Pearl Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of honey locust tree. The borough arborist visited the property on July 6, 2022 and recommended that the tree should not be removed. The tree is in good condition and has adequate clearance from the house and porch. It has caused not visible damage to the sidewalk near it and does not conflict with the utilities. The tree should be pruned and elevated. Barry Sullivan made a motion to deny the removal and Dave Hammond seconded. The motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **925 Farmdale**

The property owner requested the removal of two Bradford Pear trees. The borough arborist visited the property on July 6, 2022, and recommended that one of the trees be removed, He neglected to assess the second tree. Dave Hammond made a motion to allow the removal of both trees and replace them with two large trees from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Harry Schmidt seconded, and motion passed with Barry Sullivan and Matt Notch abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Code Enforcement/Review of Landscaping Plans**

The letter concerning the impact of construction of swimming pools on the tree canopy was sent to the borough commissioners. The topic is on the commissioner's agenda for July 13, 2022.

- **Review of Landscaping Plans/Tree Replacements**

Following up on tree replacements was again identified as a top priority. Over the past several years, 240 trees have been removed and the number of replacements is unknown. Wayne Hoffman will work with Rhiannon Worthington on the follow up.

The replacement requirement for 318 Fourth Ave was discussed and questions raised about whether six cedar trees were planted. It was suggested that the borough arborist visit the property and confirm the species of the planted trees. It was noted that one large replacement tree recently planted at 316 Fourth appears to have died already. It was suggested that tree care instructions be included with approved removals and that the requirement to keep the replacement alive for one year be added.

- **Wilbraham Park/Centennial Celebration/Friends of Wilbraham Park**

Barry Sullivan presented the attached report.

- **Farmer's Market**

It was discovered that volunteers who are not members of the Shade Tree Commission must provide proof of insurance to staff a table at the Farmer's Market. The issue will be further discussed with borough commissioners and counsel.

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NEW BUSINESS

- **Shade Tree Commissioner Resignation**

Wayne Hoffman reported that Lisa Bernstein resigned from the commission. He thanked her for her many years of service. Discussion ensued about possible replacements. It was noted that the addition of another woman should be considered.

- **Planning Board**

Wayne Hoffman reported that he is now being copied on new projects that come before the planning board. This will allow the Shade Tree Commission to assess any possible tree conflicts prior to any construction.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

Judy Smith encouraged the Shade Tree Commission to report its findings and share its concerns about the impact of the construction of swimming pools on the tree canopy.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffman, Secretary

Friends of Wilbraham Park (FWP)/Garden Committee:

1. The FWP have established a website: www.wilbrahampark.org and are working on a Facebook page
2. They have received several donations to help pay for the Rededication Ceremony, including a \$1000. Donation from Sturdy Savings Bank.
3. The plantings are going well, and the Garden Committee is working at the park every Friday, from 10am till noon, in addition to special planting days.
4. The Flying Fish Studio is making special 100 Anniversary commemorative T Shirts which will be sold at the Rededication Ceremony and in their store, proceeds to go to the FWP.
5. The FWP has received work T shirts and ball caps to identify volunteers.

Rededication Ceremony:

1. The Rededication Ceremony is scheduled for this Friday, June 18th. Raindate, June 19th.
2. The musical group The Honeyhawks will provide musical entertainment.
3. The USCG will play the National Anthem and present the Colors.
4. The Mayor will speak and read the Proclamation, Wilbraham Park Day.
5. Eagle Scout Luke Maxwell will be recognized.
6. WCM Elementary School Students will have their Park related work on display.
7. The Mayor and Borough Council will provide a ceremonial covering of the time capsule.
8. The monument base has been set. The monument will be displayed.
9. A ribbon cutting will officially reopen the park.

Needs:

1. Work day on Friday morning 6/17 9-11am to spruce up park. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
2. Pick up chairs and podium for the event.
3. Set up and take down help on 6/18, 9-11am. Chairs, Band, etc. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
4. Hand out programs and assist visitors with seating.
5. Reserve Parking spots (2) for Sturdy 100-year-old car, and Band, behind stage.