

BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

December 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, posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of Borough Hall, 732 Broadway, West Cape May, NJ and read by Wayne Hoffman.

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Members present: Dave Hammond, Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Bill Oetinger, Barry Sullivan, and Glenda Unzelmann. Bill McCray, Matt Notch, and Harry Schmidt were excused. Wayne Hoffman led the salute to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the meeting minutes from November 8, 2022, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Dave Hammond and seconded by Bill Oetinger. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Oetinger reported a balance of \$87,236.49. The treasury balance is up \$3,000 for the year. Bills for \$600 for the new Wilbraham Park sign and \$1,800 for fall fertilization of the trees in the park were received. The 2023 budget is under discussion and items for consideration should be forwarded to Bill Oetinger. Barry Sullivan made a motion to approve the report and Dave Hammond seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

A meeting will be arranged to clarify the payment reimbursement process for items purchased by the Friends of Wilbraham.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **409 Broadway**

The property owner requested the removal of a London plane tree. The request was tabled at the November 2022 meeting. The homeowner, Jeanne Lufty, sent a letter explaining that the tree roots have caused the sidewalk to crack, and she has repaired the sidewalk three times in the past 19 years due to the tree. The borough arborist visited the property on Nov. 1, 2022. He noted that this is one of the largest London planes on Broadway. The shape of the tree is excellent, and the aesthetic quality is high. Unfortunately, the conflict between the tree and the surrounding hardscape is severe. Wayne Hoffman and Bill Oetinger met with the homeowner to discuss options. Following a review of that meeting, the consensus was that the tree should

remain due to its size and condition. Bill Oetinger made a motion to deny the removal. Susan Hoffman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Wayne Hoffman reported that a meeting was scheduled for Dec. 16 to review the construction plans for 209 Third Ave. Norm Roach, Chad Pradelli, Mitchell Nichols, Matt Notch, and Wayne Hoffman will attend. To accommodate three houses, the builder is requesting the removal of six trees. Wayne Hoffman believes a large tree in the borough right of way can be saved if the driveway is modified. The other trees fall within the footprint of the homes and plans call for them to be replaced at the rate of one for one. Barry Sullivan stated that even though this is new construction a tree removal permit should be reviewed by the commission. Susan Hoffman confirmed that one was submitted and going forward such permits would be shared with the commission.

The borough commissioners approved an amendment to the street tree maintenance ordinance establishing standard clearance heights of 8 feet over sidewalks and 14 feet over streets.

- **Wilbraham Park/Friends of Wilbraham Park**

Barry Sullivan reported on the success of the Dec. 2 tree lighting ceremony. It was well attended and well received. The Friends of Wilbraham donated baked goods and hot chocolate. It should become an annual event.

- **Planning Board Projects**

No new projects to review.

- **Swimming Pools**

An ordinance is being drafted for the borough commissioners to review.

- **Tree Planting Grant**

Susan Hoffman reported that the grant will be extended for one year.

- **Trimming of Hazardous Trees**

Action on this item was tabled until the new enforcement officer was in place.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

No members of the public were present.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffman, Secretary