

BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 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, Harry Schmidt, and Barry Sullivan. Matt Notch, Bill Oetinger and Rhiannon Worthington were excused. Lisa Bernstein was absent.

Others present: Peter Burke, Deputy Mayor, and Bill Brady

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the meeting minutes from April 12, 2022, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Barry Sullivan and seconded by Dave Hammond. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wayne Hoffman reported a balance of \$95,356. He noted that approximately \$9,000 has been spent on improvements to Wilbraham Park this year. This includes mulching, irrigation system and plantings. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the report and Harry Schmidt seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **603 Fourth**
The property owner requested the removal of a hazardous maple tree. Wayne Hoffman inspected the tree and approved the emergency removal. Dave Hammond made a motion to require the planting of one small or medium size tree as a replacement. Barry Sullivan seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- **Westwood Mobile Estates**

The property owner requested the emergency removal of a maple and poplar tree. Wayne Hoffman approved the emergency removal. Susan Hoffman made a motion to require the planting of two large trees as replacements. Harry Schmidt seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

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

As a follow up to the letters sent to three builders concerning the tree replacement requirements of their projects, it was reported that Paul Burgin was the only one to respond. Burke Builders and Lawrence Pray were sent second notices.

Zoning requested tree protection be constructed at a pool installation at 311 Fourth Ave.

- **Wilbraham Park Maintenance/Eagle Scout Project/Friends of Wilbraham Park**

Garden Committee: The sign and flagpole gardens have been planted with perennials and annuals. Overhanging tree limbs were removed at the flagpole garden. The committee held two workdays this month and will meet every week on Fridays at 10 am for a work session.

Eagle Scout Project: Eagle Scout, Luke Maxwell, exceeded his fundraising goal for the project.

Friends of Wilbraham Park: The Friends group is raising money in support of the centennial celebration. Funds will be used to purchase a centennial monument and time capsule. Dave Hammond made a motion to fund the purchase of the monument in an amount not to exceed \$750. Bill McCray seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tee shirts will be developed using the new Wilbraham Park sign design. Rachel Shubin is working on the history of the park with information provided by Doug Carnes.

Plaques: Susan Hoffman raised the question of allowing plaques to be placed in the park in memory of or to honor individuals. Barry Sullivan noted that the national park service had a strict policy outlawing the placement of plaques. Following discussion, Barry Sullivan made a motion to no longer accept plaques for placement in Wilbraham Park and to research the viability of a memorial brick program. Harry Schmidt seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

- **Vine Removal**

Wayne Hoffman reported that the vine removal work continues. To date 103 trees have been de-vined.

- **Environmental Commission Collaboration**
The Environmental Commission plans to plant numerous cedar trees and other varieties at the Third Ave. Open Space Park.
- **Spring Planting**
Twelve trees have been planted to date. This includes four Okame cherry trees donated by Atlantic City Electric. Six cedar trees remain to be planted.
- **Arbor Day/Sapling Giveaway**
Susan Hoffman reported that the Arbor Day Celebration at WCM Elementary School and sapling giveaway were very successful.

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Hoffman reported that Mike Curtin completed the transfer of all the data from the Tree Keeper software into i-Tree. The Commission is extremely thankful for his assistance.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

No public comment

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted, Susan Hoffman, Secretary