

**BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY**

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 14, 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: Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Bill McCray, Matt Notch, Bill Oetinger, Harry Schmidt, and Barry Sullivan. Dave Hammond and Rhiannon Worthington were excused. Lisa Bernstein was absent.

Others present: Peter Burke, Deputy Mayor, Jeffrey Winkler, and Michele Reimer (206 Columbia Ave.), Judy Smith (408 Third Ave.)

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After a review of the meeting minutes from May 10, 2022, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Barry Sullivan and seconded by Harry Schmidt. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bill Oetinger reported a balance of \$90,711. Bill McCray made a motion to approve the report and Harry Schmidt seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- **523 Broadway**  
The property owner requested the removal of a Siberian elm tree. The borough arborist visited the property on May 12, 2022 and recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with one large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Bill Oetinger made a motion to approve the recommendation. Susan Hoffman seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.
- **110 Pacific Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of four black willow trees. The borough arborist visited the property on May 17, 2022 and recommended that all four be removed and be replaced with four medium or large trees from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the recommendation. Susan Hoffman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **511 Broadway**

The property owner requested the removal of a red cedar and hackberry tree. The borough arborist visited the property on June 7, 2022 and recommended that the hackberry tree be removed but red cedar should not be removed. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and replace it with one small or medium size tree. Bill McCray seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **155 Leaming Ave.**

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. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to table the request until such approval could be obtained. Harry Schmidt seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **523 Broadway**

The property owner requested the removal of a Siberian elm tree. The borough arborist visited the property on May 12, 2022 and recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with one large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. Bill Oetinger made a motion to approve the recommendation. Susan Hoffman seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **206 Columbia Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a silver maple tree, American holly, crepe myrtle and Hinoki cypress due to the construction of a swimming pool and other property renovations. The borough arborist visited the property on June 7, 2022, and recommended that the maple, holly, and cypress be removed. The crepe myrtle should be protected during construction. The property owners, Jeff Winkler and Michele Reimer explained that the maple and crepe myrtle were located where the approved pool was to be installed. Therefore, the crepe myrtle could not be saved. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal of all four trees and require the planting of four trees (two large, one small and one medium). Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **210 Columbia Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a Southern magnolia. The borough arborist visited the property on June 7, 2022 and recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with one large tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees. It was noted that this tree was probably damaged during construction of the house and pool. Barry Sullivan made a motion to

approve the recommendation. Susan Hoffman seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **416 Fourth Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of two Leyland cypress that had been severely damaged during the winter snowstorm. Wayne Hoffman visited the property and confirmed the damage. He made a motion to approve the removal and require the planting of three medium size trees as replacements. Harry Schmidt seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **Wilbraham Park and Borough Hall**

The removal of a dying cherry tree in Wilbraham Park was approved. As well as the removal of five dead trees along the parking lot at borough hall.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

The construction of swimming pools and the impact on the tree canopy in the borough was discussed. It was noted that numerous trees have been removed to make way for pools and some trees surrounding the pools have been damaged during the actual construction. The commission will send a letter to the borough council voicing their concern.

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

Barry Sullivan presented the attached report.

- **Environmental Commission Collaboration**

The Shade Tree Commission donated three cedar trees to the Environmental Commission and had them planted at the Pollinator Park on Third Ave.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resident's Tree Planting Request**

Resident, Frank Scott, does not want to plant his replacement tree on his property but would like to plant it elsewhere in the borough. Discussion ensued about the process. Homeowners may select a tree from the WCM List of Approved Trees and have it planted or donate \$400 to the tree bank.

- **Tree Planting Grant**

Susan Hoffman reported that she is behind in completing the tree planting grant. She discussed the delay with representatives at the NJDCUF and they agreed to extend the grant period. Barry Sullivan, Bill Oetinger and Matt Notch offered to assist with the grant.

- **Other**  
Wayne Hoffman reported that Mayor Sabo asked the commission to consider funding/placing a hydration station and bicycle repair station in Wilbraham Park. Details on pricing was not available so no action as taken.

**OPEN PUBLIC PORTION**

No public comment

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted, Susan Hoffman, Secretary

**Friends of Wilbraham Park (FWP)/Garden Committee:**

1. The FWP have established a website: [www.wilbrahampark.org](http://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.