

BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2023

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, Wayne Hoffman, Susan Hoffman, Bill McCray, Matt Notch, Bill Oetinger, Harry Schmidt, Barry Sullivan, and Glenda Unzelmann.

Others present: George Dick, commissioner, Stacey McCaney, deputy code enforcement officer, Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Raneri, 109 Sixth Ave. and Joseph Kubiak, 189 Leaming Ave.

Wayne Hoffman led the salute to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the minutes from the June 13, 2023, meeting, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Wayne Hoffman and seconded by Barry Sullivan. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Oetinger reported a balance of \$82,022. Bill Oetinger noted that the 2022 Farmer's Market allocation was received, and the Wilbraham contract came in higher than expected. Dave Hammond made a motion to approve the report and Susan Hoffman seconded it. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **101 Sunset Blvd.**

The property owner requested the removal of two Kwanzen cherry trees at 101 Sunset Blvd. The borough arborist visited the property on June 7, 2023 and recommended that both trees be removed. They are dying and are not candidates for preservation. He recommended that they be replaced with two small or medium trees. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and replacements. Dave Hammond seconded, and the motion passed with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **117 Stevens**

The property owner requested the removal of nine Leyland cypress trees at 117 Stevens St. The borough arborist visited the property on June 29, 2023, and recommended that all nine be removed because they are all in poor condition and none are candidates for preservation. He recommended that for each tree removed one small or medium tree be planted as a replacement. Susan Hoffman made a motion to approve the removals and replacements. Glenda Unzelmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **204 Fifth Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a silver maple tree at 204 Fifth Ave. The borough arborist visited the property on June 29, 2023. He recommended that the tree be removed because it is in severe decline with more than 50% canopy dieback. Barry Sullivan made a motion to approve the removal and require a large tree be planted as a replacement. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion passed with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **109 Sixth Ave.**

The property owners requested the removal of a Norway maple tree at 109 Sixth Ave. The removal of this tree was denied several years ago, and they have asked the commission to reconsider the request. Mr. Dominic Ranieri explained that the tree is growing very close to a concrete patio, and it continues to lift the concrete. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and require the replacement of one small/medium size tree. Dave Hammond seconded. The motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **189 Leaming Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a Japanese black pine at 189 Leaming Drive. The borough arborist visited the property on July 7, 2023. He reported that the tree was infected with a canker disease and bark beetles. It is not a candidate for preservation and should be removed and replaced with a small/medium size tree. Mr. Joseph Kubiak confirmed that the tree was dying, and he would replace it with a red bud. Barry Sullivan made a motion to approve the removal and replacement. Susan Hoffman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **119 Fourth Ave.**

The property owner requested an emergency removal of a willow tree at 119 Fourth Ave. Wayne Hoffman visited the property to assess the risk and determined that the tree should be removed but the determination could wait until this meeting. In addition, it was noted that this tree is a boundary tree and written approval to remove it must be obtained from the neighbor. Wayne Hoffman made motion to approve the removal pending the neighbor's approval and require the planting of one large tree as a replacement. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion passed with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **703 Grand Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a catalpa tree at 703 Grand Ave. due to the construction of a new home on the property. Members of the Shade Tree Commission visited the site and recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with two large trees. Wayne

Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and replacement. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **732 Broadway (Borough Hall/Fire Company)**

The public works department requested the removal of two maple trees at the fire hall. The borough arborist performed an assessment of the trees. He recommended that the smaller tree be removed. The larger tree should not be removed. It should be cabled and treated. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal of tree #1, deny the removal of tree #2 and require that two small or medium size trees be planted as replacements. Barry Sullivan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Bill Oetinger reported he has completed the revisions to the ordinances and will send them to the executive committee for review and input. The final document will then be sent to Commissioner George Dick. The last step will be to arrange a meeting with zoning.

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

The gardens at Wilbraham Park looked great for the MAC Garden Tour on June 17, 2023. Unfortunately, the turnout was disappointing.

- **Planning Board Projects**

The commission has been asked to prepare recommendations for a minor subdivision at 837 Broadway.

- **Tree Planting Grant**

Susan Hoffman reported that Levon Bigelow, forester for the State of New Jersey, visited West Cape May on July 7, 2023. Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Matt Notch, and George Dick met with Mr. Bigelow. He then performed an inspection of all the 42 trees we planted. He was pleased with the condition of the trees despite the dry conditions. He noted that there was only one tree that appeared to be stressed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Matt Notch reported that West Cape May Elementary School has informed him about the presence of poison ivy on a tree located on borough property behind the school. He referred the school to Greg Basile.
- Barry Sullivan suggested that we consider a program to encourage the removal of non-native and invasive trees like Bradford pears and Leyland cypress by waiving the permit fee for removing these species.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

Joseph Kubiak asked about the next steps for removing the tree that was approved at the meeting. Wayne Hoffman told him that he would receive the approved permit and the West Cape May List of Approved Trees via email by the end of the week.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffman, Secretary