

BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Borough of West Cape May Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Wayne Hoffman at 6:04 PM via a Zoom Web Conference. This meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was sent to the Star and Wave and posted on the bulletin board in the foyer of Borough Hall, 732 Broadway, West Cape May, NJ.

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Members present: Lisa Bernstein, Susan Hoffman, Wayne Hoffman, Bill Oetinger, Dave Hammond, Matt Notch and Harry Schmidt. Parker Smith and Bill McCray were absent.

Others present: Peter Burke, Deputy Mayor and Sean and Megan Scott

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After a review of the minutes from the May 5, 2020 meeting, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Wayne Hoffman and seconded by Bill Oetinger. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report

CORRESPONDENCE

- **313 Fow Ave.**
The homeowner requested the removal of a Juniperus Virginiana. The borough arborist visited the property on May 29, 2020. He recommended that the tree not be removed until a further assessment be done. Homeowners, Sean and Megan Scott attended the meeting. It is a large tree growing in a very confined spot. The tree has been damaged by the construction of the home and patio and the installation of an irrigation system. The commission felt it was only a matter of time before the tree might fail. Dave Hammond made a motion to approve the removal and replace it with two small or medium size trees. Harry Schmidt seconded. The motion was approved.
- **313 Fifth Ave.**
The property owner requested the removal of a black cherry tree. The borough arborist visited the property on April 28, 2020. He reported that the base of the tree has severe decay and more than 50% of the upper canopy is dead. He recommended that the tree be removed. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and require the replacement of a small or medium size tree from the West Cape May List of Approved

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

- **312 Second Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a black cherry, black pine and red maple. The borough arborist visited the property on May 29, 2020. He reported that all three trees could be removed. The cherry tree has several defects. The pine tree is leaning over the driveway and has the potential for failure. The maple tree is growing under the power lines. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removals pending the selection of a tree service operator who is licensed in the state of New Jersey. All three trees need to be replaced with large trees. Harry Schmidt seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **112 Stevens**

The property owner requested the removal of a white pine tree. The borough arborist visited the property on May 29, 2020. He reported that the tree is dead and should be removed. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and require the replacement of a large tree from the West Cape May List of Approved Trees. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

- **608 Second Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a black cherry tree. The borough arborist visited the property on May 29, 2020. He reported that the tree should be removed. The root system has been severely damaged from the construction of a pool and utility installation. Dave Hammond made a motion to approve the removal, cite the homeowner for construction damage and require the replacement of a large tree from the West Cape May List of Approved Trees. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **622 Second Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a black cherry tree. Several members of the Shade Tree Commission visited the property and reported that the tree is dead and should be removed. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and require the replacement of a medium tree from the West Cape May List of Approved Trees. Harry Schmidt seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **431 Fourth Ave.**

The property owner requested the removal of a maple tree. Several members of the Shade Tree Commission visited the property and reported that a significant portion of the tree is dead, and it should be removed. Wayne Hoffman made a motion to approve the removal and require the replacement of a small or medium size tree from the West Cape May List of Approved Trees. Bill Oetinger seconded, and the motion was approved with Matt Notch abstaining.

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION

- Sean and Megan Scott were present to discuss their request to remove a tree at 313 Fow Ave.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Code Enforcement**
The sub-group consisting of Wayne Hoffman, Dave Hammond and Bill Oetinger continues to meet.
- **Wilbraham Park Benches**
Susan Hoffman reported that the proposed bench has been ordered. She will notify commission members when it is delivered.
- **Tree Inventory**
Susan Hoffman reported that the state has send the sample RFP. She will start formatting it for West Cape May use.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Solar Lights**
Wayne noted that the City of Cape May has solar lights on the Cape May sign in the municipal parking lot on the corner of Perry and Lafayette. He asked members to view it to see if the same would work to light the sign at Wilbraham Park.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffman, Secretary