



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024

7:30 p.m.

[held remotely via Zoom]

1. Call to Order—Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

2. Roll Call

Commission Members present:

Nils Abate, Chairman

Todd Bradbury*

Miriam Lockhart*

Anna Maroules, Councilwoman

George Paschalis, Secretary

Tsun Tam

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Tam, seconded by Councilwoman Maroules, to approve the January 8, 2024 minutes. All members present voted in the affirmative.

4. Open Meeting to Public Comment

5. Correspondence

Mr. Paschalis highlighted incoming and outgoing communications, including from the Trees for Schools Grantor and to a homeowner regarding the unauthorized pruning of a street tree.

6. Old Business

a) NJUCF Accreditation Status (2023)

Mr. Paschalis noted the requisite reporting was submitted to the New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry program and the Commission remains accredited.

b) RFQ: Community Forestry Management Plan Update

Chairman Abate noted the Borough has received one response to date from interested vendors. The due date for all responses is February 16.

c) Insurance Claim for Tree Loss at Legion Place Tree

Mr. Paschalis noted the Borough has received \$2,750 for the loss of this tree. Chairman Abate will follow up to see if this money has been deposited into the Shade Tree Trust Fund.

7. New Business

a) 2024 Municipal Budget update

Chairman Abate noted he has not been contacted by the Budget Committee to date. The Commission reviewed a distribution memo prepared by Mr. Paschalis to accompany the digital and hard copies of the 2023 Digest to members of the council and administration.

b) Arbor Day Poster Contest

Mr. Paschalis recapped plans for this year's Arbor Day Poster Contest. Starbucks will once again sponsor the Contest. Mr. Paschalis will issue the program flyer in early March.

Members discussed whether, given the Trees for Schools planting this year, it still makes sense to do the Commission's customary planting at each school. Mr. Paschalis will reach out to the schools to determine their preference.

c) CORE Training

Chairman Abate noted he and Councilwoman Maroules are registered to participate in CORE training later this year.

8. Reports

a) Shade Tree Trust Fund Report

Members discussed how the Borough might be able provide the Shade Tree Trust Fund Report on a regular basis without the need for monthly reminders. Councilwoman Maroules will make inquiries.

9. Plan Reviews/Inspections

Members discussed various plan reviews and inspections, including Wilson Place and Jane Street.

Mr. Bradbury noted implementation of zones of protection around existing trees remains a challenge; he recently encouraged the Building Department to improve enforcement of this requirement.

10. Meeting Adjournment (approximately 8:10 p.m.)

** Mr. Bradbury and Ms. Lockhart joined the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.*