

**Township of Colts Neck
Shade Tree Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2019 - 7:30 P.M.**

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Hammond
Ms. Martin
Mr. Nicoletti (left at 8:00 p.m.)
Ms. Riley
Mr. Viola, Liaison
Ms. Stivala
Mr. Viola, Alternate 1
Ms. Coscia, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Boak
Ms. Eastman (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Ms. Sherwood, Alternate 2 (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

Ms. Stivala read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Minutes – February 7, 2019 **Motion** to approve the minutes by Ms. Riley seconded by Mr. Hammond, with edits as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Ms. Stivala changed the order of agenda items.

Item #5 Liaison Report – Mike Viola reminded Shade Tree members not to send emails to the entire Shade Tree Commission regarding applications/projects, as it constitutes a quorum and violates the Sunshine Law. When a subcommittee is formed, communicate just with the subcommittee until a formal Shade Tree meeting where the applications/projects are agenda items and can be discussed in an open public meeting. The presence/discussion between four or more members would constitute a quorum.

Tentative dates for COAH public meetings are May 8th and June 12th at the Municipal Building in Town Hall.

Mike Viola discussed a line of 20+ Ash trees on Bucks Mill Road. They are not in the right-of-way, but rather on private property. He spoke with the Planner and suggested writing a letter as a public service to the homeowners that an infestation will destroy the trees. They can have a certified Arborist inspect the trees.

Lastly, he suggested that a Shade Tree member stop by Town Hall the Monday prior to the scheduled monthly meeting to pick-up plans to review with the Planner. The Committee member would then ask the secretary to add the plans to the upcoming agenda for Shade Tree Review.

Item #2 19 Hialeah Drive – Site visit and update by Vito Viola – Vito Viola stated that 90% of the property had been clear-cut. He could not determine where the property lines started or ended. The homeowner was not home. Rich Tree Service was there grinding down major stumps, and could not offer any information.

Vito said it appeared that two trees were freshly cut and a third tree was rotted.

Mr. Hammond stated that the back of the property/the easement were his concerns. Seven to eight inch caliper trees were removed beyond the bench in the back.

Vito would reach out to Code Enforcement to inspect the property. If trees had been cleared in the easement, a violation would be written up for the homeowner. Ms. Martin and Mr. Viola to do another site visit.

Mike Viola stated that an ordinance is being amended for landscapers requiring them to get a permit to take brush to public works, one-time annually. Brush permits will go into effect after the next Township Committee Meeting.

Ms. Stivala said she would agree to be part of a subcommittee to prevent/curtail clear cutting. Ms. Sherwood and Ms. Martin volunteered to be part of the subcommittee.

Item #1 Ms. Stivala stated that she had contacted the New Jersey State Forestry Program and ordered 400 trees; Eastern Red Cedar, Eastern White Pine and Red Maples. The cost was \$45 per 100 trees. They will also be getting more saplings from Patrick LaPore. In the future, they can get 98 trees for \$38. The trees will be distributed on 4/13/19 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in front of the municipal building.

Item #3 Celebration/Memorial Tree Program – Ms. Martin handed out some information prepared by the subcommittee on the proposed program.

Vito Viola was concerned about the chart on tree maintenance. Ms. Sherwood and Ms. Martin were in agreement.

Mike Viola would like to meet with the subcommittee before the program is voted upon, and then it would go to the Township Committee.

Mike Viola said that he checked with the back office, and learned that there was \$400+ in the Memorial Tree Program.

Item #4 Arboretum Report carried to the April 4th meeting

Other Business – Mr. Hammond asked if two damaged Ash trees at Laird Ball Park could be taken down. If so, he agreed to mark them with paint and ribbon. Ms. Stivala will discuss with the Administrator.

Adjournment

Motion at 9:00 p.m. by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Ms. Martin to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

Minutes approved 4/4/19 (MNM/VV)