



TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE

SHADE TREE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER
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Chairperson – Dan Ostrowski

Vice Chair – Gina Talamo

Commission Members- Joseph Adelfio, David Carbone, Ellen Connor, Bill Hoban, Vincent Lovallo, Lori Stapleton

CALL TO ORDER

Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Chair, D. Ostrowski, on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:01p.

FLAG SALUTE – 7:02p

ANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT - In compliance

ROLL CALL

Present: Dan Ostrowski, Vincent Lovallo, Ellen Connor, Bill Hoban, Joe Adelfio, Gina Talamo, Lori Stapleton, Conservation Officer/Forester Gary Lovallo (“CO G. Lovallo”)

Also Present: Councilwoman Greenberg-Belli

Excused: Dave Carbone

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING REVIEWED

Minutes of the June 22, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **Two errors were noted and a Motion to approve was made by D. Ostrowski and seconded by B. Hoban and the motion carried.**

Motion to suspend to the Agenda to hear from the public.

56 Valley Vale Drive - Mr. & Mrs. Barry Mednick appeared during the meeting to request the Commission’s approval to remove two Heritage Trees (Sweet Gum and White Oak) from their backyard.

Motion was made to resume the meeting upon completion of the 56 Valley Vale discussion.

BUDGET – An update of the budget will be given at the next Shade Tree Commission meeting in October.

TREE SPECIALIST GARY LOVALLO/FORESTERS REPORT

Presentation and Discussions: CO G. Lovallo distributed and discussed his reports from July 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019 and August 2, 2019 to August 30, 2019. Reports are available upon request.

Site Plan Review

- **OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY/BRUNETTI SITE** – A water tower will be built behind the Grand Marquis Hotel on Rt.9. There is a request into the Shade Tree Commission

seeking approval to clear the trees in order to build the tower. This is in preparation of new construction of a housing development.

- *ROAD MANAGEMENT* - Gas station/ QuikCheck on Foxboro Drive and Rt.18; the site is currently cleared and developer is asking for approval to remove trees in the existing 75 ft buffer.
- *REFORMED CHURCH ON RT. 18* – The church is expanding their parking lot and will need to remove trees. CO G. Lovallo may suggest moving the parking entrance to a clearer area for better traffic flow.
- *VISTA AT OLD BRIDGE* – This is an affordable housing development project on Marlboro Road and East Greystone. Developer has requested a waiver to clear trees and CO G. Lovallo has responded with a requested for tree data from a Certified Tree Expert upon which he can make his determination on the waiver request.
- *MT. HEBRON CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM* – Mt. Hebron is expanding their building by a couple of feet and will be removing 20 trees.

Municipal Tree Planting Plan – CO G. Lovallo informed the Commission that planting is on schedule. There is a plan to plant trees on Throckmorton (about 30 trees) and in the Municipal Complex (about 22 trees). The long-term tree planting plan includes planting trees in Cottrell Farm.

OLD BUSINESS

Arbor Day 2020 – CO G. Lovallo asked that the Commission come up with a school where Arbor Day can take place in 2020.

Community Forestry Plan – This plan expires next year; the State is revising the rules for writing plans and has granted a 5-year extension for the next plan submission.

Ordinances – Necessary changes are forthcoming.

Grants – Federal Government has a program where they are granting funds to Townships to maintain large open spaces that are under redevelopment pressure. CO G. Lovallo will be submitting an application for the program in January.

Scholarships – CO G. Lovallo asked the Commission to come up with a theme for next year's scholarship.

NEW BUSINESS

Residential Education - CO G. Lovallo announced that a general tree pruning course would be offered on Thursday, September 19, 2019 with 55 people already signed up. He also gave an update on the Right Tree, Right Place Seminar that took place in August and drew in over 90 attendees.

Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a resolution for the 56 Valley Vale request.

Motion to resume the meeting for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45p by J. Adelfio and seconded by B. Hoban.

Next meeting: Monday, October 21, 2019 @ 7:00p in Room 201