



TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE

SHADE TREE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER
GARY LOVALLO CTE, CF, CA, AF
ONE OLD BRIDGE PLAZA
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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 Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 9:03a.

FLAG SALUTE – 9:04a

ANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT - In compliance

ROLL CALL

Present: Dan Ostrowski, Vincent Lovallo, Ellen Connor, Bill Hoban, Joe Adelfio, Dave Carbone, Lori Stapleton, Conservation Officer/Forester Gary Lovallo ("CO G. Lovallo")

Also Present: Councilwoman Greenberg-Belli

Excused: Gina Talamo

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING REVIEWED

Minutes of the May 20, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by J. Adelfio and seconded by B. Hoban and the motion carried.

BUDGET – Current funds available is \$552,711.48.

TREE SPECIALIST GARY LOVALLO/FORESTERS REPORT

Presentation and Discussions: CO G. Lovallo distributed and discussed his report from May 21, 2019 to June 29, 2019. Reports are available upon request.

There was discussion around the health of the large White Oak tree on Spring Valley Road near the Hampton Inn Hotel. CO G. Lovallo suggested to the hotel owner to engage a Certified Tree Expert (CTE) to determine the health of the tree. Realizing that the Commission would not meet again until September 16, 2019, CO G. Lovallo asked that Commission to rely on the CTE's determination as a next step concerning the tree if action needed to be taken during the summer months when the Commission does not meet. The Commission agreed.

By email, on Monday, August 19th, CO G. Lovallo informed the Commission that the hotel owner's CTE stated that the tree was in decline and should be removed and not pruned. He also noted the hotel owner agreed to replace the tree with one of the Commission's choosing. (Email is attached)

Permits and Violations

86 Gordon Place – Homeowner removed a Heritage Tree (Red Maple) without a permit and there was nothing reportedly wrong. Homeowner did obtain a professional opinion that stated nothing compelling enough to have the tree removed. Upon asking the Commission for guidance on next steps, the **Chair made a motion to let the homeowner remove the tree at his own expense and plant 3 trees or do the equivalent of \$720 worth of landscaping work. The motion was seconded by L. Stapleton and the motion carried.**

13 Dartmouth - Homeowner desires to remove and Heritage Tree (Pin Oak) that is in the front yard; the tree is dying and has become unsafe. The CTE reported that the tree has been declining for years and is a risk to the property. After discussion, the **Chair made a motion to let the homeowner choose whether he would (i) remove the tree at his own expense and plant 3 trees or do the equivalent of \$720 worth of landscaping work OR (ii) have the Township plant 2 trees and homeowner plant one. The motion was seconded by B. Hoban and the motion carried.** Options to be offered to the homeowner by CO G. Lovallo.

Site Plan Review

- **OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE** – the new restaurant's footprint is slightly smaller than the existing. Once the new build is at 90% completion, Outback will demolish the old building and will be closed for 30 days during demolition. The number of parking spaces after construction completion will remain the same. Project goes before planning on July 11, 2019.

Municipal Tree Planting Plan – CO G. Lovallo informed the Commission that planting is behind schedule. There is a plan to plant trees in Old Bridge in public spaces and parks. It was also noted that Cottrell Farm will take \$50,000 worth of trees and the Municipal Complex, once the drainage replacement project is completed, will plant new trees as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Arbor Day 2019 – CO G. Lovallo noted that for grant application purposes, advertising and promotion of Arbor Day should be increased for more awareness of the event.

Cottrell Farms – No change from March 18, 2019 update.

Website – D. Carbone will make a few changes to the website.

Grants – No change from March 18, 2019 update.

Scholarships – Alyssa Mendez will receive her scholarship at the upcoming Monday, June 24, 2019 Township Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Residential Education - CO G. Lovallo announced that a general tree pruning course would be offered on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:11a by B. Hoban and seconded by J. Adelfio.

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