



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 Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:06p.

FLAG SALUTE – 7:07p

ANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT - In compliance

ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Dave Carbone, Gina Talamo, Lori Stapleton

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING REVIEWED

Minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by J. Adelfio and seconded by B. Hoban and the motion carried.

BUDGET – As of May 20, 2019, \$550,768.83 is available. The increase from last report reflects \$25,580 from Amboy Bank for the Heritage Tree assessment. CO G. Lovallo also noted that the Commission has taken in \$855,746 in funds since implementing the permit application process in 2014. There was discussion on requesting a new line item in the Township's Operating Budget for the Shade Commission in the amount of \$3000/year. This funding would cover materials, conference fees, dues, printing, mailings, among other things. The request will be prepared for the D. Ostrowski's signature and submitted for consideration.

TREE SPECIALIST GARY LOVALLO/FORESTERS REPORT

Presentation and Discussions: CO G. Lovallo distributed and discussed his report from March 15, 2019 to May 14, 2019. Reports are available upon request.

Site Plan Review

- **OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE** – Located on Route 9, will be knocking down the existing restaurant and rebuilding it, slightly larger. Tree permit was applied for to remove 15 trees. Project will go before the Planning Board in June.

- *ED TESTINO, LLC* – The developer will demolish a small house and replace it with a multi-story office building next to Cheesequake Volunteer Fire Station and Cheesequake Elementary School. Developer must calculate vegetation and submit a landscaping plan to CO G. Lovallo. This project will go before the Planning Board on June 11th.
- *OLD BRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT* – Old Circle Inn on Rt. 516 will be renovated into Forno Restaurant. Owners have agreed to plant 5 trees in the parking lot.
- *SHANNON LEO* – Removed trees before securing a permit. Will receive a violation. A house was demolished and two smaller homes were built on the same lot. This project will be heard at the July 2nd Planning Board meeting.
- *ROUTE 18 & MARLBORO ROAD* – New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) has removed 7 Heritage Trees, as part of their “Good Neighbor Policy”. This area of land is owned by DOT and residents complained that the trees were obstructing sightlines on the roadway. As part of their policy, DOT would remove trees under these circumstances. Though outreach to the Township did occur from DOT prior to tree removal, CO G. Lovallo was not made aware until the trees were removed. CO G. Lovallo has since reviewed the new planting plan and approved it for the buffer area on the site, and requested DOT to please notify him directly in the future for project such as this one.

Municipal Tree Planting Plan – CO G. Lovallo informed the Commission that planting is behind schedule. He further explained that it is hard to give trees away to residents and by having them “opt in” to request trees has been unsuccessful. 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 – The Arbor Day was April 18th 2019. The event was successful and went as planned.

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

Website – The website needs to be updated with the planting list. The Chair offered to follow up with D. Carbone to make the changes.

Grants – No change from March 18, 2019 update.

Scholarships – V. Lovallo reported that one application was received and he will distribute it to the Commissioners by email.

Tree City – CO G. Lovallo reported that the application was accepted for this year.

Spring Valley Road – V. Lovallo reported that on Spring Valley Road by the Hampton Inn Hotel there is a large White Oak tree that appears to be dying. JCP&L also called CO G. Lovallo about the same tree noting that they were concerned about it interfering with powerlines and would take it down. CO G. Lovallo understood the outreach and noted that the tree is not in the way of any lines. Further, he noted that he would monitor the tree and is responsible for its preservation. However, with V. Lovallo’s concern for the tree, CO G. Lovallo said he would go out and take a look at it and take any necessary actions needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree planting – Contractor will commence planting in the fall of this year.

Farrington Drive – Homeowner’s property backs up onto the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority Pump Station. MUA owns ten feet of land in the homeowner’s backyard where large White Pine trees are located.

MUA wanted these White Pines removed (when originally planted the trees served as a buffer, which they no longer do now that they have grown up), and CO G Lovallo granted the request, and the MUA had the trees removed. At the same time, the homeowner wanted the removed trees to be replaced with new trees even though it would not be on his property. Agreeing to homeowner’s request, CO G Lovallo offered to plant ten Leland Cypress trees and asked the homeowner, at his expense, to ensure that all debris, wood chips and grindings were cleaned up after the tree removal and to put top soil down prior to the new tree installation. Having not fulfilled this request, the new trees were planted in the grindings and debris, and resulted in the loss of 3 of the 10 trees that were newly planted.

Homeowner became very belligerent with CO G Lovallo blaming the contractor who planted the new trees. CO G Lovallo explained that the trees had to be planted in a hostile environment due to the fact that the planting site was not properly prepared/cleared for the new trees. CO G Lovallo had the 3 dead trees replaced and has closed out the project.

Tractor Supply Store – On Englishtown Road nearing Woodhaven Road across from Runyon Creek housing development will be a new Tractor Supply Store. There will be 15 trees removed to clear the site for the store.

ADJOURN - Motion to adjourn was made by the B. Hoban at 8:15p and seconded V. Lovallo.

CO G. Lovallo requested that the meeting be reopened to discuss a few other matters.

CALL TO ORDER

Shade Tree Commission meeting was reopened and called to order by Chair, D. Ostrowski, on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 8:20p.

NEW BUSINESS

13 Ritner Street – Heritage Tree (Sweet Gum) is raising the deck; problem is visibly obvious. Owner does not want to pay \$2100 or plant 5 new trees. CO G. Lovallo recommended that the Commission allow for the Heritage Tree to be removed at the homeowner’s expense and have him plant 2 trees elsewhere on his property. Taking the recommendation under advisement and following discussion, **B. Hoban made a motion to waive the Heritage Tree requirement due to the infrastructure damage the tree has caused, and have the homeowner remove the Heritage Tree and plant new 2 trees. The motion was seconded by Joe Adelfio and the motion carried.**

242 Cindy Street – Heritage Tree (Linden) trunk appears to be cracked and has caused damage to the sidewalk due to its growth path. In addition, the tree has been trimmed into an awkward shape by the utility company as a result of work they had to complete. Due to the defect in the trunk and the disruption to the sidewalk, **a motion was made to waive the Heritage Tree requirement due to the defect in tree trunk and its disruption to the sidewalk, and have the homeowner remove the Heritage Tree and then the Township plant 2 new trees on Township property in front of the home. If the**

resident is not happy with this determination, he will be directed to pay for the removal of the Heritage Tree. The motion was made by B. Hoban and seconded by V. Lovallo and the motion carried.

BILLS

One invoice from Arbor Day was received for annual publication renewal. It was \$15. **The Chair made a motion to accept the bill and pay it to have the publication renewed. The motion was seconded by B. Hoban and the motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31p by B. Hoban and seconded by J. Adelfio.

Next meeting: Saturday, June 22, 2019 @ 9:00a in Room 201