



# TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE

SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER  
GARY LOVALLO CTE, CF, CA, AF  
ONE OLD BRIDGE PLAZA  
OLD BRIDGE, NJ 08857  
732-525-5656 OFFICE 732-525-3202 FAX  
[OBForester@gmail.com](mailto:OBForester@gmail.com)

**Chairperson** – Dan Ostrowski

**Vice Chair** – Gina Talamo

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

**Other Attendees** – Ellen Connor, Anita Greenberg-Belli, CO G. Lovallo

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Chair, D. Ostrowski, on Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 8:05a.

**FLAG SALUTE** – 8:05a

**ANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT** - In compliance

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING REVIEWED**

Minutes of the November 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Two errors were cited. **A Motion to approve with corrections was made by L. Stapleton and seconded by G. Talamo and the motion carried.**

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

## **TREE SPECIALIST GARY LOVALLO/FORESTERS REPORT**

**Presentation and Discussions:** CO G. Lovallo distributed and discussed his report from November 23 to December 18, 2019. Report is available upon request.

## **VIOLATIONS**

109 Wesley – 2 lots, 2 houses, side by side in a wooded area. Trees were removed without a permit and brush was buried. No permits for any work on the house including removal of trees.

**A Motion to suspend the meeting to hear from Mr. Debrova (Old Bridge resident) owner of 109 Wesley was made by B. Hoban and seconded by J. Adelfio and the motion carried.**

Following discussion with the homeowner and thereafter once he left, a Motion to resume the meeting was made by G. Talamo and seconded by B. Hoban and the motion carried.

### **VIOLATIONS (cont.)**

10 Staghorn – Homeowner removed a Maple Tree without a permit; was concerned that the crack in the tree would cause someone to get hurt if it broke and fell. Once tree was removed, its debris was taken off site and dumped on Township owned property.

### **Site Plan Review**

- RD MANAGEMENT – Rt. 18 and Foxborough Drive; site plan has been updated from prior submission.
- *OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY/BRUNETTI SITE* – It was noted by A. Greenberg-Belli that the developer, Brunetti, will not be building the water tower on Rt. 9 site, the water tower will be built offsite.

**Municipal Tree Planting Plan** – CO G. Lovallo informed the Commission that the State has advised that all Planting Plans that expire in 2020 will have a 5 year extension. Old Bridge's Plan expires in 2020. It was also noted that planting for this season was completed for the year. There are no more trees to plants. In total, 97 trees were planted, 33 of those were planted in the Municipal Complex.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Ordinance Changes – CO G. Lovallo raised the following items for the Commission's consideration:**

- **Section 457-2 Definitions** - Definition of Topping added
- **Section 457-6 Term of permit** - 1 permit per year – applicant can only be issued one permit per year unless a hardship can be demonstrated added
- **Section 457-8.1 Replacement Trees** – Table 10.1 for tree removal fees changed (to Table 2.0)
- **Section 457-10E (4) Tree Replacement** – change to commercial and nonresidential development exemptions
- **Section 457-15 Display of permit; carrying of plan or authorization; right of entry** – changing Certified Tree Expert to Licensed Tree Expert
- Request for increase to Commission Members from 5 to 7, and 2 alternates

**A Motion to accept the amendments was made by D. Carbone and seconded by G. Talamo and the motion carried.**

**Arbor Day 2020** – E. Connor reported that Arbor Day will take place at Southwood Elementary School in 2020 on April 24th.

**Cottrell Farm** – Township has received a \$1M grant from State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the improvements to the farm.

**Community Forestry Plan** – No update.

**Grants – (i)** There is a \$20K grant that would allow for the replanting trees in a floodplain. CO Lovallo applying for the grant and has a few possible sites that fit the criteria of the grant.

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

**Website** – D. Carbone will update the website with information on how residents and businesses can request a tree to be planted.

**Scholarships** – The annual Shade Tree Commission Scholarship is an opportunity for graduating students only. Several themes for this year’s scholarship essay were discussed and it was agreed on that the theme would be **Solar benefits vs. Tree benefits**. V. Lovallo will manage getting the information out the local schools.

**Bills** – No bills to report.

**Tree City** – The report has been filed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Residential Education** – No update.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45a by B. Hoban and seconded by J. Adelfio.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 @ 7:00p in Room 201