

**FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**June 1, 2022 Meeting - 7:30 PM**  
**1st Floor Mayor's Conference Room 110**

**MINUTES**

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – 7:31 p.m. Thom Ritchie, Bill Brash, Kurt Davis, Mark Taylor, David Novak, Stacey Ehling.  
**Guest:** Greg Hanley
2. **Salute to the Flag** - completed
3. **Announcement of Open Public Meeting Act** - completed  
*In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, (c231, P.L. 1975) this meeting was announced by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers and the Township and filing such notice with the Township Clerk.*
4. **Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2022** – Mark motion to approve as written, Bill second. Minutes approved.
5. **Guest:** Gregory Hanley to speak about Heritage Tree Appraisal for Willowbrook Solar project. Heritage tree appraisals were almost 14K for the Black Cherry trees. Noted that for the appraisals they used the 9<sup>th</sup> edition we are on the 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Motion to accept the report as written made by Bill, second by Stacey. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Chesterfield Holdings on 210 Harding Road.** Heritage tree report was done for trees in two areas of the proposed construction site. There is a 37 inch Pin Oak. Wasn't going to be involved in construction and will protect with fencing. No plans to disturb shade trees in sidewalks or curbs, so don't need appraisal. Landscaping plan – Greg suggested a modified plant list and locations. Use of Green Giant Arborvitae not Red Cedars. Add more native plants and more diversity. Be wary of the deer pressure in the area see what is susceptible for browsing.
  - c. Golden Meadows** – Holland Ridge – Update: No response back from them yet. There are 10-11 trees in that cluster of Oaks, Black and Pin Oak and the large White Oak in the field.
6. **Shade Tree Appeal Hearings:** none
  - a.** Update on Heritage Tree removal appeal by Mike and Maribeth O'Brien, 783 Colts Neck Road, Freehold: Thom and Kurt inspected the tree and noted the roots were deep and the tree was not dead as previously reported, it does have anthracnose and is sparsely leafed. Commission believes the tree would survive if the work was done carefully around the roots, however if done improperly a heavy wind load could compromise of root supports. The homeowners said they would plant a tree to replace this one further up on the property and the commission allowed the removal without a fine for this heritage tree.

## **7. Unfinished Business:**

- a.** Fall 2022 tree planting for street tree replacements (residents request list & Stillwells Corner Road) and DPMA replacements. Need to identify a licensed tree contractor to make road safe and plant in the fall.
  - i. Several trees are in bad shape including one by the side of the firehouse, one on Woods Rd., and one across street on Stillwells/Double Creek. Plan to send a list of the trees that need more immediate approval due to public danger.
  - ii. Dead Trees to be replace from fall planting: Commission will evaluate trees that homeowners reported did not survive and then replace them during the proposed fall planting 2022. Trees are under warranty for one year.
  - iii. Discussion on including deer guards in the next round of plantings.
- b.** DPMA irrigation repairs – it will be up to township to hire someone to fix them.
- c.** Tree replacements, Maintenance and improvements - two of the trees we marked were removed including the leaning tree and one in the back.
- d.** Enforcement of Shade Tree Ordinances – no progress.
- e.** Review of financial reports of 2021 –Need Durand reports and will go over all reports in the fall. Need to request latest reports.

## **8. New Business:**

- a.** Shade Tree Monthly Report - Several of the approvals for multiple trees were questioned. Discussion that any request for removal of over 3 trees should be brought before the Commission to be reviewed.
- b.** Correspondence - Dead/dying trees for 2021 planting – Bill will do a site check on these locations and homeowners will be contacted.

## **9. Open Public Discussion - Urban forestry – Talked briefly about the Urban Forestry program.**

## **10. Good and Welfare**

Bill ran reports for the iTree inventory: 2800 Norway Maples in town, and has a breakdown of species of the 18,000 trees, size and how many of each. There is another report on the age distribution of the top 10 species of trees in town some of which include: Norway Maple, Red Maple, Callery Pear, Eastern White Pine, Sugar Maple. Report also assigns the benefit of the tree. Of the 18,000 the value to replace them would be \$29 million dollars. These are all municipal streets not county or state highways. There were 600 Ash trees in Freehold in 2018.

## **11. Adjourn: 9:05 p.m. - Thom Ritchie first, second Mark Taylor.**