

**FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**October 5, 2022 Meeting - 7:30 PM**  
**1st Floor Mayor's Conference Room 110**

**MINUTES**

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 7:30 p.m. Thom Ritchie, Stacey Ehling, Kurt Davis, Dave Novak, Alan Walker, Mark Taylor.
2. **Salute to the Flag** – DONE
3. **Announcement of Open Public Meeting Act** - DONE  
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 September 7, 2022** – Approved as written.
5. **Greg Hanley report on plan and site review** – Was not able to attend but will be here in November.
6. **Shade Tree Appeal Hearings**
  - A. Josh Gold 181 Robertsville Rd., and Steven Gold 8 Forman Lane Manalapan, Tree Appeal.  
Denial of permit to cut down trees to install solar panels (SAMBA Energy) on the ground at a residential property.
    - Mr. Gold requested 50 trees in the back of the property be removed. Report provided by solar company report states they need 1,600 sq feet to be feasible. Mr. Gold stated that he engaged Ultimate Tree Service.
    - Shade Tree Commission explained this company is Licensed Tree Care Operator – and is not qualified to assess the condition of trees. They need to hire a Licensed Tree Expert to properly assess and ID the species and condition of the trees, provide a DBH for every tree, and to provide a report that can be reviewed by STC so an informed and educated decision can be made.
    - Mr. Gold said many of trees are not in great condition, and there were a lot in the area.
    - STC explained that 50 is a lot of trees, and our mission is to preserve trees for the benefits they give to the environment and community. Some may be Heritage Trees.
    - Mr. Gold stated he will look to hire an LTE and get STC the report to review.
  - B. Golden Meadows Development 227 Monmouth Road, Rt. 537  
Zig Panek, 191 Asbury Rd. Farmingdale, NJ – Licensed Tree Exert Gold Meadows Estate.  
Gary Fleischhauer, 5 Queens Court, Monroe, NJ – Contractor/purchaser Golden Meadows

- Mr. Panek came to speak to STC for guidance and clarification on the assessment and value of the 10 heritage trees that need to be removed due to roads and utilities for the development. Stated they were going to put in 55 street trees, and ask commission about those, 32 landscape 3" caliper, 31 evergreen, 80 mixed shrubs. Other than the value of each tree, what kind of credit will the applicant get on the landscape trees and evergreens.
- STC stated that the items they mentioned were part of the approved landscape plan for the project – if there was to be any trade off it would have to be beyond the normal planting size, and this would not include street trees since they are required. They have to be considerably larger since heritage trees contribute a great deal to the community and it would take a lot of small trees to even come close.
- Mr. Panek stated that other communities like Ocean Twp has an ordinance that provides for replacing 30" tree with 4-5 trees that are 2.5=3" caliper tree. He said Tinton Falls used to require 4" trees but most didn't make it to the large size or they couldn't be used because they didn't fit in the designated spots where they were to be planted.
- STC stated that any replacement would have to add significantly more to make up for a heritage tree.
- Mr. Panek asked if we had anything in the ordinance that provided a formula for the replacement trees for credit against the cost of Heritage Trees.
- STC stated that we think there was a section in our Heritage Tree ordinance about the commission in some cases, allowing multiple, large trees to be planted in instead of monetary a contribution for tree value, but we have to look it up to know how it is written. This is very rare and only used one time in many years.
- STC will get back to Mr. Panek after a thorough review of the ordinances.
- Mr. Panek also asked for clarification on the edition to use for tree appraisal valuations. He noted he has not been able to get the most current edition, and wanted to use the 9<sup>th</sup> edition.
- STC stated the ordinance states the most current edition must be used to get accurate valuation. However, to accommodate his difficulty STC stated he could use the 10<sup>th</sup> edition 2<sup>nd</sup> version instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> which is the most recent, but he could not use the 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

## **7. Unfinished Business:**

- a. Fall 2022 tree planting for street tree replacements (residents request list & Stillwells Corner Road) and DPMA replacements List of only 6 people – one a replacement tree for one that died. STC decided to forgo a fall planting and plan for the Spring of 2023 due to the lateness of the season. In addition, a series of social media posts will be sent for approval to encourage people to put their names on the list for replacement trees, and increase awareness of the replacement tree program as well as the need to fill out the tree removal permits.
- b. Remove dead risk trees in Right of way and prune trees along Stillwells Corner Road most done, but not all. Still a few left one on Woods/Stillwells.
- c. DPMA there are a few dead trees that still need to be removed. Irrigation repairs need to be done but that is not under STC jurisdiction.
- d. Enforcement of Shade Tree Ordinances – If trees are hanging over sidewalks or are a danger they should be reported, and a notice will be issued to the homeowner to

cut them back. STC members are encouraged to notify DPW if they see any trees that are a danger so they can be taken care of.

**8. New Business:**

- a. Update Shade Tree information on website – November Meeting
- b. Shade Tree Monthly Report - Reviewed
- c. Correspondence - No comment

**9. Open Public Discussion - None**

**10. Good and Welfare**

NJ Shade Tree Federation meeting, October 13 & 14, 2022 Cherry Hill, NJ

**11. Adjourn 8:52 motion to adjourn. Second.**