

Freehold Township Shade Tree Commission
November 1, 2017 Meeting
Mayors Conference Room 110

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** : Thom Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:00
2. **Present**: Thom Ritchie, Bill Brash, Jeanne Patterson, Nancy Mac Neill, Greg Hanley, Lester Preston **Absent**: Tara McQuade
Due to the absence of the recording secretary, Mayor Preston agreed to serve as acting Secretary.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**: Thom Ritchie led the Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Announcement of Open Public Meeting Act**: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law (c231, PL 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 by filing such notice with the Township Clerk.
5. **Meeting Minutes**: After a review of the minutes and on motion by Bill Brash and second by Nancy Mac Neill, the minutes of October 4, 2017 were approved as presented.
6. **Unfinished Business**:
 - a. I Tree Inventory – Discussion was held on the status and progress being made on the tree inventory.
 - b. Discussed Grossman property that is being developed as it relates to drainage issues that may exist.
 - c. Thom Ritchie led a discussion on the Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference, specifically on the effects of wind and the related stress it causes on trees.
 - d. Thom Ritchie offered his congratulations to Greg Hanley on receiving his Licensed Tree Expert designation and to Bill Brash for receiving the prestigious Bill Porter award at the Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference.

- e. Discussed need for 3 replacement trees and a birdhouse in the Red Oak on the circle at DPMA.

7. New Business:

- a. A resolution of Heritage Tree mitigation for Parkside at Freehold was discussed and on motion by Bill Brash and second by Nancy Mac Neill was unanimously approved by the members eligible to vote. Greg Hanley and Jean Patterson abstained from voting.
- b. The following 2018 meeting dates and times were approved by the Commission (Jan. 10 @ 7:00 PM Re-Org meeting, Feb. 7 @ 7:00 PM, Mar 7 @ 7:00 PM, Apr 4 @ 7:30 PM, May 2 @ 7:30 PM, June 6 @ 7:30 PM, Sept 5 @ 7:30 PM, Oct 3 @ 7:30 PM, Nov 7 @ 7:00 PM, Dec 5 @ 7:00 PM.)
- c. CSIP Grant process was discussed. A completed tree inventory is required to be eligible for a grant. There is a possibility of grants to help fund cost of the tree inventory. It was reported that it is expected that the town tree inventory will be completed by the end of November. The discussion included the downloading of information onto a computer/ server, the computer back-up process and the recording of trees in the parks as well as the associated challenges. Bill Brash will work on the grant application.
- d. Shade Tree Report – A discussion was held on the report and the various actions that were taken.

8. Good and Welfare: Mayor Preston spoke about the status of the new DPW building. Mayor Preston discussed conversations about dog parks in Freehold Township and asked the Commission about a dog park at DPMA. The members strenuously and unanimously agreed that a dog park should not be located at DPMA.

9. Public Comments: None

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by Lester Preston Jr.
Acting Secretary