

# **BOROUGH OF EMERSON SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Commission Chairperson Margaret Boyce called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. in the Borough Hall Council Chambers.

Secretary Denise Villani took the roll call:

Chairperson Boyce	PRESENT
Ms. Buchert	ABSENT
Mr. Frassa	PRESENT
Ms. Fricke	PRESENT
Mr. Maltzan	PRESENT
Mr. Polvere	PRESENT

Mr. Kenneth Hoffman, Council Liaison was also present.

Chairperson Boyce read the following:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with provisions of the Act, The Emerson Shade Tree Commission has caused notice of this meeting taking place in the Emerson Borough Hall Council Chambers by having date, time and place thereof published in the newspaper and posted in the Municipal Building.”

The fire exits were publically announced.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### 1. Appointment of Vice Chairperson:

A motion to nominate Joseph Polvere was made by Ms. Fricke and seconded by Mr. Maltzan. The motion was APPROVED by the following roll call:

## ROLL CALL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Buchert				<b>X</b>
Mr. Frassa	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Fricke	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Maltzan	<b>X</b>			
Vice Chair Polvere	<b>X</b>			
Chairperson Boyce	<b>X</b>			

### 2. Mid March 2020 Spring Planting – review quotes

Chairperson Boyce spoke about the process of receiving quotes. She asked Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Frassa to review the one quote that she has received from Forcellati Bros. and to make any necessary suggestions for clarification. She is frustrated by the lack of responses and asked for input from the Commission. Councilman Hoffman suggested that the size of the trees should be clarified, perhaps that would change the pricing. Mr. Polvere asked if these numbers were consistent with quotes received in the past. Mr. Frassa suggested that no planting be done in the Spring, just do the Arbor Day planting and plan for the fall. He believes that the prices received are high. Chairperson Boyce suggested perhaps subbing the work out, Mr. Frassa believes that subbing is difficult and expensive. He believes that joining a cooperative would be better. Chairperson Boyce was given a few Shade Tree Commissions to contact.

### 3. Additional Planning for Arbor Day Heritage Tree Selection/Location of Planting

Chairperson Boyce asked for planning information for the Arbor Day celebration. A discussion was held on the location of the planting and it was decided that Longview Park would be a good location. Ms. Fricke will continue to look for a historic tree and also to contact a few organizations which were given to her for saplings. The name of a contact at Union Community College was also given and Mr. Polvere stated that if a meeting is necessary, he would be willing to attend. It was suggested that Mr. Fricke contact the Superintendent of Schools to request student participation. A time for the Arbor Day planting still needs to be determined.

### 4. Hiring a Tree Planting Contractor – The decision to hire a contractor was tabled.

**OPEN/CLOSE TO PUBLIC – None.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY ROLL CALL VOTE:**

A motion to approve the January 8, 2020 Reorganization/Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Polvere, seconded by Mr. Maltzan and APPROVED by the following roll call vote:

## ROLL CALL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Buchert				<b>X</b>
Mr. Frassa	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Fricke	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Maltzan	<b>X</b>			
Vice Chair Polvere	<b>X</b>			
Chairperson Boyce	<b>X</b>			

## TREE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Frassa reported a conversation that he had with the tree removal contractor in which he stated that he wasn't sure that he could meet his obligation to the Borough. Mr. Hoffman suggested that he contact Lauren and/or the Borough Attorney to discuss further. He mentioned that tree trimmers for PSEG would be in the Borough trimming trees close to power lines. They are currently working in Paramus and Mr. Frassa instructed them to do the same in Emerson that they are doing in Paramus. Mr. Frassa also identified three big projects that he believes need to be addressed. Broadway, Franklin/Adam Ct. and Kinderkamack Road. His recommendation is to get work started on these as soon as funds are available. He also went over the following tree removals:

21 Eagle Drive

81 Parker

Jefferson Ave. – Assumption School

70 Ackerman

166 Vivian Ave.

A motion to accept the Tree Inspectors report on removals and recommendations was made by Mr. Maltzan, seconded by Ms. Fricke and APPROVED by the following roll call vote:

## ROLL CALL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Buchert				<b>X</b>
Mr. Frassa	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Fricke	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Maltzan	<b>X</b>			
Vice Chair Polvere	<b>X</b>			
Chairperson Boyce	<b>X</b>			

**CORRESPONDENCE – None.**

**MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT** – Mr. Hoffman reported that the budget is currently being worked on and should be presented to the Council for vote soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. NJ Shade Tree Federation Membership

At this time the Commission has decided that it would not be beneficial to join the NJ Shade Tree Federation but retains the right to join sometime in the future.

2. Delegating funds via resolution for tree planting

A discussion was held about the status of the Fund designated for tree planting. It was decided to pass a resolution opposing any changes to the Borough Ordinance.

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Shade Tree Commission, Borough Ordinance Chapter 266, Article 11 remain as written. The Commission strongly agrees that any fees paid to the fund must be used solely for tree planting and no other purpose. Additionally, this fund must be administered by the Shade Tree Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Maltzan, seconded by Ms. Fricke and APPROVED by the following roll call vote:

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Buchert				<b>X</b>
Mr. Frassa	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Fricke	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Maltzan	<b>X</b>			
Vice Chair Polvere	<b>X</b>			
Chairperson Boyce	<b>X</b>			

Staying on the topic of the fund the commission agreed that it is in its best interest to spend the fund so they decided and made a motion to contact Enzo Forcellati for planting of ten (10) trees utilizing up to \$10,000 from the fund. These planting would be done at homes where the residents have requested trees.

A motion to was made by Ms. Fricke, seconded by Mr. Maltzan and APPROVED by the following roll call vote:

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Buchert				<b>X</b>
Mr. Frassa	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Fricke	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Maltzan	<b>X</b>			
Vice Chair Polvere	<b>X</b>			
Chairperson Boyce	<b>X</b>			

In addition to these ten (10) tree plantings, Mr. Frassa and Mr. Maltzan will look for ten (10) additional locations for fall plantings. This should deplete the fund and plant trees in the Borough for the first time in approximately three (3) years.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Since there was no other business and no need for a Closed Session, Chairperson Boyce asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was made by Ms. Fricke, seconded by Mr. Frassa, all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,  
DENISE VILLANI  
Secretary