

**BOROUGH OF EMERSON SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 13, 2024**

Vice Chairman Grzybowski called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM, after which he read the following: "The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Marie Shust took the roll call:

David Colin	Absent
Scott Grzybowski	Present
Ms. Jessica Fricke	Present
Ms. Karin Argenzia	Present
Mr. David DiTota	Present
Paul Lauterback	Present
Michael Esqueu	Present
Christian Sforza	Present
Shade Tree Inspector, Perry Solimando	Present
Councilman Brian Gordon (Liaison)	Present

**Tree Inspector's Report:**

Attached is my report for March,

DPW removed a dying Maple tree located at 45 Highland Ave.

DPW removed 1 dead Maple tree, 1 dead Oak and half of 1 dangerous leaning Oak, we will finish when the woods dry out so we can get the truck back further at 2ed St. and Palisade Ave. behind the high school bleachers.

DPW trimmed dead branches out of an Oak tree located at 23 Pershing St.

I contacted Robert from Valero to see if he has completed all of his planting. He told me he was all completed.

Mr. Solimando told the members that his crew needed to be certified and he needed their approval for the expense.

Vice Chairman Grzybowski made a motion to approve the certification expense not to exceed \$1,800.00, offered by Mr. DiTota. Vice Chairman Grzybowski, Ms. Fricke, Mr. DiTota, Mr. Esqueu, Ms. Argenzia, Mr. Lauterback and Mr. Sforza voted yes for the expense.

**Minutes of February 12, 2024 meeting:**

Vice Chairman Grzybowski asked if there were any questions or corrections for the minutes of February 12, 2024, Ms. Shust said there was an error in the attendance for Mr. Solimando and Mr. DiTota, they were both present at the February meeting. Vice Chair Grzybowski made a motion to approve the amended minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Esqueu. All were in favor.

### **Vouchers & Correspondence:**

There is one voucher from Gannett Newspapers for the publication of the 2024 meeting dates in the Record and The Ridgewood News in the amount of \$36.38.

Vice Chairman Grzybowski made a motion to approve the invoice. Second was offered by Mr. DiTota. Vice Chairman Grzybowski, Ms. Fricke, Mr. DiTota, Mr. Esqueu, Ms. Argenzia, Mr. Lauterback and Mr. Sforza voted to approve payment.

### **2024 Budget**

The Vice Chair quickly reviewed the budget which still only reflects the first quarter allotment. Councilman Gordon told the members the budget had not been approved.

### **New Business:**

None

### **Continuing Business:**

#### **Spring Planting:**

Mr. Grzybowski told the members he had emailed the residents who had requested trees about their selections. He asked Ms. Shust to send out the spreadsheet to all the members and requested any member on the list to submit their selection if not already done.

Mr. Sforza asked for the booklet to be sent to him. Ms. Shust gave him a copy to review and he was to advise the Vice Chair of his selection. For the most part Ginkgo trees had been selected.

Mr. Grzybowski stated he would like to break down to 2 plantings one in March, one in April to make it easier for DPW. Mr. DiTota stressed how important watering a new tree is to its survival.

#### **2024 Arbor Day Ceremony**

Ms. Argenzia advised the members the ceremony was scheduled for April 27 at Sunset Park. Since the other events scheduled for that day had been rescheduled, she asked what time the members would like to hold the event. They agreed on 10AM, and also chose an Oak tree to be planted.

#### **Tree City USA**

Ms. Fricke told the members that the application was being processed, however, more information was requested in regards to the previous years ceremony. Ms. Shust and Ms. Argenzia said they would find the information she needed.

#### **Webpage update:**

Ms. Shust told Mr. Lauterback to reach out to Triessa, the Deputy Clerk in the Borough, for assistance with updating the webpage, as there is a contractual agreement in place and certain things cannot be changed without approval.

**Streetscape & Tree Species:**

Mr. DiTota agreed that some of the trees listed on the streetscape were not suitable for traffic areas and some were not shade trees. He said he would work on the list.

**Tree Management Form:**

Since chairman Colin was not present the form was tabled to the next meeting.

**Valero**

Mr. Grzybowski closed the file on Valero, since Mr. Solimando and Mr. DiTota agreed that all planting had been done.

**Open to Public:**

There was no one in the Chambers so the floor was not opened.

**Member commentary:**

Mr. Solimando told the members he needed to have personnel trained on the Bucket Truck. He said would research pricing for training and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Esqueue asked about storm damage. Mr. Solimando replied it had been minimal.

**Adjournment:**

Having no other business to discuss, the Vice Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Mr. Esqueue, second by Mr. Sforza all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Marie Shust,  
Commission Secretary