

BOROUGH OF EMERSON SHADE TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2024

Chairman Colin called the meeting to order at 6:48 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	Present
Scott Grzybowski	Present
Ms. Jessica Fricke	Present
Ms. Karin Argenzia	Present
Mr. David DiTota	Absent
Paul Lauterback	Absent
Michael Esqueu	Present
Christian Sforza	Present
Shade Tree Inspector, Perry Solimando	Present
Councilman Brian Gordon (Liaison)	Present

Tree Inspector's Report:

Here is my report for February 2024,

DPW removed two Pine trees and one Maple that were leaning on wires from a wind storm located at 111 Demarest Ave.

DPW removed a Pine tree that blew over is the wind storm located at 72 George Rd.

DPW trimmed branches off a large Oak tree that had branches leaning over driveway located at 121 Lozier Ave.

DPW removed a dying Maple tree located at 10 Ridge Rd.

DPW removed two dead Maple trees located at 65 Clinton St.

DPW removed a Swamp Maple tree located at 1 Palisade Ave.

I had a request for a replacement tree at 107 Patrick Ave. Mrs. Daniela Terceros her number is 201 615-8470.

Minutes of January 10, 2024 meeting: The Chair asked if there were any questions or corrections for the minutes of January 10, 2024, hearing none he asked for a motion. Ms. Argenzia made a motion to accept the minutes, second was offered by Mr. Grzybowski, all were in favor.

Vouchers & Correspondence:

There were no vouchers.

Ms. Shust reminded the members they needed to sign the receipt for the Employee Handbook that had been sent to them. Mr. Sforza asked that a hard copy be mailed to him.

2024 Budget

Ms., Shust told the members she had not received the budget before she left home earlier in the day, but would have it for the next meeting.

New Board Business:

Spring Planting: Mr. Grzybowski told the members that the list of residents requesting trees was growing. There are 13 requests, 5 of which are from members or former members. He is hoping for 20 trees to be planted. The Chair suggested some research be done as to whether pricing would be less if higher quantities were bought.

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.

Mr. Esqueu advised Mr. Grzybowski that he would like to have a tree planted at his home 276 Kinderkamack Rd.

Chairman Colin asked if the planting could be started in March. As long as nurseries have stock, the planting can begin. Ms. Shust asked if there was any danger in freezing for the new plantings. Mr. DiTota replied no.

Mr. Sforza asked if a tree could be planted at his home 188 Lincoln Blvd. Mr. Grzybowski added him to the list.

Continuing Board Business:

2024 Arbor Day Ceremony

Chairman Colin stated his business email was listed as a contact for Tree City USA, Ms. Shust replied she had written to them to have it removed.

Ms. Fricke told the members she was in the process of completing the application which was due on Feb 20. She needed the proclamation form the previous year and the Mayor's signature on some paperwork and she would be done.

Ms. Argenzia told the members she was gathering names for the ceremony.

Chairman Colin wanted to know where the ceremony would be held, what type of tree and the cost. Mr. Solimando said he was looking into all three. The Municipal Building

is scheduled to be under construction in the Spring, so that would not be a good location. Mr. DiTota asked about Centennial Park. Mr. Solimando thought there was a recent planting there. Ms. Argenzia suggested Sunset Park. Mr. Solimando said he would look into it. Mr. Grzybowski thought the location would be good and there is plenty of parking for the attendees. Mr. DiTota suggested a large shade tree for Sunset Park, perhaps a Sycamore. Chairman Colin asked the members to bring any other ideas to the next meeting.

Webpage update: Mr. Lauterback was not present so there was no discussion on the webpage.

Streetscape & Tree Species: Mr. DiTota asked for clarification on both of those items. He thought the Tree Species issue had been successfully addressed and wasn't sure what the treescape was about. Chairman Colin replied they are two different items and should be addressed as such. The Tree Species list had been corrected.

However, the Treescape issue needs to be addressed as several trees listed are not suitable as "Shade Trees". The members need to review and make changes, which then has to be presented to the Mayor, Planner and Land Use Board. This came about as the plantings listed for the Valero site are not shade trees. Mostly they are bushes which do not provide shade.

Mr. Grzybowski asked about the previous amounts donated to the Tree Fund by Valero. Ms. Shust reported they had received \$4,500 in 2023, for the deficit as listed on the landscape schedule. However, the bushes in place of trees are not calculated in that figure. Mr. Solimando agreed to meet with Mr. Obernauer to discuss the issue.

Tree Management Form:

Chairman Colin asked Ms. Shust to email her revised form to him for review and update.

Open to Public:

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

Member commentary: Ms. Shust asked the Councilman if there had been any update on the Stump Grinder request. He replied there was a department head meeting on March 5, at which time it will be brought up. The Chair reminded the members the Stump /grinder is classified as a capital expenditure.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was adjourned at :8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Marie Shust,
Commission Secretary