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MEETING Minutes ~ August 2, 2021

1. Meeting Call to Order 7:35
2. Meeting Announcement: This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, Duly Announced, submitted to the newspaper, and advertised more than 48 hours in advance of the meeting and notice posted in the Municipal Building and on the Borough Website.
3. Roll Call – Via Zoom Joe LaTerra, Peter Kikot, Ed Clark, and Nancy Krause were present. Ray Carroll was absent. Kim Bouma and Tony Smid were excused. Councilman Grant Van Eck was in attendance.
4. Open to the Public: No public was present in the zoom waiting room.
5. Review of prior meeting minutes ~ Motion to approve June meeting minutes as amended by Mr. LaTerra and seconded by Mr. Clark.
6. Permitting:
 - a. New Permit Application is providing some accountability for homeowners who previously may have been unaware of existing ordinance regulations to put in replacement tree or \$250.
 - b. Mr. Kikot is reviewing and visiting a lot of permits for removal.
 - c. Several letters have gone out to homeowners requesting to have dangerous dead trees taken down.
7. Great Oak Park – Dog Park Tree Update – Mr. Clark reported that the trees are looking good. DPW has been watering. We have only lost 2 out of 40 trees. Trees were not guaranteed. Mr. Clark ordered some tree guards to protect from deer. DPW will install.
8. Update on Removal and Pruning Work RFQ- Mr. Kikot updated the RFQ – ordinance says the borough will provide the yellow tape. Mr. Clark checked all the sites and has updated list and will share with Mr. Kikot asap.
9. Two emergent tree removals (22 Oak & 39 Poplar) from June – Mr. Smid confirmed that 22 Oak should be cut down and it was taken down before July. 39 Poplar was put off until RFQ tree removal.
10. Councilman VanEck reported that there has been no progress on the part-time Shade Tree Officer because the ordinance is the first priority.

11. Ordinance Revisions were discussed:

- a. Mitigation schedule - Less replacements for removal for residential trees, no changes for commercial
- b. There is a mechanism in the ordinance for people to get a variance if needed.
- c. Mr Kikot brought up the need for a final inspection in the ordinance. There has been a case on Long Hill Road where multiple trees were cut down, and the homeowner isn't paying for the permit – there is no clause in the existing permit to force payment – Mr. Clark agrees permit should expire in a year – can't sell house until permit is closed out. Ask Borough Attorney to adopt similar language for shade tree permit to be just like a building permit. All part of the same code. Not another permit until they close out this one. Recommend using Green placard again.
- d. Motion was made to approve amendments as proposed with the recommendations that the Borough attorney add language similar to a building permit that would force a permit to be closed out fully before being complete. There needs to be a final inspection and the permit should expire in a year. Motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. LaTerra. All were in favor.

12. Memorial Tree replacement:

- a. Mr. Kikot urged that the Borough shall be held accountable for all ordinances including the Shade Tree Ordinance.
- b. Councilman VanEck reported that a replacement tree is to be purchased at our discretion for the Memorial tree at Veterans Park. Mr. Clark said we are going to do a plan to plant in the spring.

13. New business discussion

- a. Annual Accomplishments – Mrs. Krause submitted an annual accomplishments report for 2020 as part of the NJUCF Grant application for a Tree Inventory
 - i. Paul Cowie – get another quote from him for Tree Inventory
- b. Trees in outfield –
 - i. We need to re-mulch or add tree protectors to protect from edging.
 - ii. Ask rec commission to buy tree protectors.

14. Meeting adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm made by Mr. Clark, seconded b Mr. LaTerra. All in favor.