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MEETING Minutes ~ April 5, 2021

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.
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, Tony Smid and Nancy Krause were present. Ray Carroll was absent. Kim Bouma was excused. Councilman Grant Van Eck was not in attendance.
4. Open to the Public. There was no public via zoom, therefore closed to the Public.
5. Review of prior meeting minutes ~ Motion made by Mr. Clark to approve March minutes as amended. Mr. LaTerra seconded. All in favor.
6. Membership Review ~ Two member positions available. Maggie Merlucci has expressed interest in joining.
7. New Permit Application is now live and available: New tree removal permit was put into effect on March 8. A few corrections were needed, and latest version was live on April 4. There was then a discussion regarding the need of a map with the permit. It was agreed that the permit must be filled out completely and tree(s) marked. The discussion was over the requirement of a map along with the permit. While a sketch is very helpful, it is not required in the current ordinance and therefore the lack of one can not hold up the permit process.

A motion was made by Mr. Smid and seconded by Mr. Clark to remove the language that requires a map of the property and replace with language that suggests a map, drawing or survey to accompany the permit as preferred but not required. This does not pertain to construction permit, septic, building, or planning applications which all require a proper survey. All were in favor.

8. Arbor Day and Earth Day sapling installation events. – Mr. Clark will be picking up 400 trees to be planted and distributed. April 10 and 11 is the invasive species pull at GOP and April 24 and 25 is the tree planting at GOP. Roosevelt Blvd tree planting is May 1 and 2.

10. Review new CEU credits for 2021 : Need 8 for the year, we have 2 already. Mrs. Krause is signed up for a class in May (1 credit). Mr. Kikot reported that our Tree City status has been renewed.

11. Great Oak Park – Dog Park Tree Installation Update – Mr. Clark reported that there was a delivery of 40 trees was this morning and he did the layout and field adjustments. The DPW has started the install. No gator bags, the trees will all get wells around them. Watering is critical and will require volunteers.

12. Update on Removal and Pruning: Mr. Clark reported that a few sites have to be revisited. Some grinding and stumps need to be taken care of. And some additional cleanup is required before checks are released. A few emergency trees need to come down. Email from 34 Ryerson will be followed up on by Mr. Kikot. We are going to start going after emergency and dead tree this more quickly. Looking into using Google Docs to have a common file to add trees to be scheduled for removal.

13. Continue the discussion on the idea of performing a legacy tree mapping as an overlay to Oakland's town – Mrs. Krause will talk to Lee Haymon about mapping.

14. Update on the search for a new part-time Shade Tree Officer. Rich Kunze continues to look at what other boroughs do. Mr. Kikot does not anticipate the job being more than 8-10 hrs /week. We have not received a recent update.

15. Update on Ordinance/Revisions questions about septic: Septic mitigation – every application would be subject to the new mitigation plan – Councilman Russel Talamini suggested the number of trees to be reduced. Mrs. Krause suggested a smaller, less expensive caliper instead. Mr. Clark said the smaller caliper has higher survival rate as well. Mr. Kikot has requested that we have an opportunity to present again to the council after we have had more time to discuss the Council recommendations.

16. Discussion on the Borough's accountability to the Tree Ordinance: Borough needs to be held accountable to tree removal regulations just as other property owner. The borough owns a lot of

property in Oakland. Mr. Smid said it was in the old ordinance that the Borough is required to get a permit to remove a tree and that the borough should have to follow the new ordinance as well. Mr Clark believes the town is responsible and needs to follow the ordinance. Mr Kikot recounted that the Borough Admin said that the town is not subject to the ordinance. We would like to assure the residents that all property owners are covered by the ordinance.

17. Meeting adjournment 8:38 Motion to close by Mrs. Krause and Mr. Clark seconded.