

**The Ocean City Shade Tree Committee
City Hall Council Chambers
861 Asbury Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226**

Meeting Minutes from Wednesday November 12th, 2025, 9:00 AM Meeting

Meeting Called to Order: 9:03A.M.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given pursuant to Public Law 1975: Chapter 231

Membership Roll Call: Present: Joseph Clark, Mary Louise Hayes, J. Michael Lehman, Joshua Linthicum, Marie Crawford, Donna Moore, Sandra Simpson **Absent:** Kyle Costello (City Liaison)

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from September 24, 2025, and October 22nd, 2025 were approved by The Committee without change.

***Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:** None

Old Business:

- Joe Clark reviewed issue with pine needles from a cluster of three black pines planted along the curb that are repeatedly clogging sewer drains between Belfast and Cardiff Roads. This is an issue that is affecting other drains, such as along 34th Street and Gardens Parkway. It was noted that Black Pines are not native and drop black sap.
- No project update was provided from Kyle Costello who was absent.
- Current discussions: Projects planned for Veterans Memorial park, the Dog Park, The John Kennedy Palmer site at 16th Street, and the North Street Playground.
- The Committee is planning a drive through Ocean City in January to identify city owned sites where trees can be planted and to recommend species for these sites, with a plan to begin the planting in March/April. Donna Moore suggested we work together to choose pollinator friendly varieties.

- New Business:

- Marie Crawford discussed an offer by Atomu Saul from Rutgers University to date, or age old trees in town. Joe knows of an Ocean City tree that is said to be 300 years old. He will speak with the property owner. There is no fee for this service.
- Joe Clark suggested The Committee do a tour of the Linwood Arboretum. Sandy Simpson donated a white birch tree to the arboretum that she won at The Shade Tree Federation Conference.
- Arbor Day: The Committee plans to participate and plant trees.
- Marie Crawford discussed planting a white oak tree, donated by the Shade Tree Federation. Joe Clark agreed as a tribute to the 100th anniversary of The Shade Tree Federation. Site on city property to be determined.
- Mary Louise Hayes discussed the illegal removal of trees in Ocean City that are on city property, specifically the governor's strip. Some homeowners may mistakenly believe the governor's strip is their property. In a discussion with a landscaper who was about to take down a healthy tree, she stated that the landscaper said he removes them throughout the city, and knows there is no enforcement. This one tree was saved.
- Review of the Planning & Zoning Board applications as they pertain to the Ocean City Shade Tree Ordinance for the following locations:
 - o **3212-14 Haven Ave.** - Approved with a recommendation of one shade tree.
 - o **1168 Boardwalk** - Approved with a recommendation of one shade tree.
- Review of the Shade Tree Account - Balance as of 10/31/2025 is \$26,836.28. \$11.61 interest paid in 2025. This is an increase of \$700.00 from last month, with an additional \$1.29 in interest transferred to cash management account ending in 7738. Joe Clark spoke with Frank Donato who stated this account is not reduced annually. It is rolling.
- Reminder – Next meeting date - Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 9:00 AM
- Pending business to be considered at the next meeting on Wednesday, December 17 @ 9:00am

Adjournment of the Meeting: 10:10 A.M.

* Note: Guests will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker at the discretion of the Committee Chairman

Minutes Submitted by Marie Crawford, Secretary
(mgc 11/12/25)