

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

**Meeting Minutes from Wednesday December 17th, 2025,
9:00 Am Meeting**

Meeting Called to Order: 9:14 A.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: Mary Louise Hayes, Kyle Costello (City Liaison) Marie Crawford, Donna Moore, Sandra Simpson, **Absent:** Joseph Clark, J. Michael Lehman, Joshua Linthicum

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from Wednesday November 12th were approved by The Committee with a date correction from 12/19/2025 to 12/17/2025, and the addition of Sandy Simpson's white birch tree donation to the Linwood Arboretum (under new business).

Public Comment: None

Old Business: Report from Kyle Costello on the status of any ongoing public landscaping and/or planting projects: Kyle stated crape myrtles at the Knight Building and the parking lot at Haven Ave and 11th Street were pruned.

Illegal removal of street trees: The committee discussed how to address illegal removal of trees. A suggestion was made to contact our zoning office. Mary Louise Hayes asked Marie Crawford to contact the zoning office to inquire about how to follow through. Marie agreed.

The committee would like to caravan to Ocean City sites in January for the purpose of assessing future tree plantings on city property. Kyle agreed to make arrangements for this effort. No date has been set.

New Business: Review of the Shade Tree Account. Kyle stated that Bryan Cottrell provided a statement of the Shade Tree Account ending in 0107. Balance of 11/30/25 is \$26,836.28 with no additions. \$1.32 in interest was transferred to account ending in 7738. \$12.93 interest was paid in 2025. Donna Moore suggested we be informed about cash buyouts on individual properties in lieu of planting trees.

Review of the Planning & Zoning Board applications as they pertain to the Ocean City Shade Tree Ordinance for the following locations:

- 108-10 53rd St. - Approved with the tree shown on the plan and a recommendation of one additional street shade tree in the front of the property along the street.
- 112 Sixth St. - The committee recommends one tree per lot (four trees total per current subdivision plan reviewed as of today's date) on Haven Ave. and three additional trees for the lot bordering Sixth Street. The committee appreciates the note on the plans which reads: "Note: All trees and plantings species to be decided, by the Shade Tree Committee of Ocean City." The committee recommends three salt tolerant and high water absorption tree species on Sixth St., such as bald cypress and red cedar. (*Juniperus virginiana*) The same species are recommended on Haven Ave with the following additional species suggestions: pin oak. Shrub suggestions were requested. The committee recommends shrubs that are salt tolerant. For example: bayberry, juniper, red or black chokeberry (*Aronia* spp.), arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*), Amelanchier serviceberry, Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*).
- Reminder – Next meeting date - Wednesday, January 28, 2026
- Pending business to be considered at the next meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 9AM

Adjournment of the Meeting: 10:29 A.M. Minutes Submitted by Marie Crawford, Secretary

(mgc 12/17/2025)