

**City of Ocean City
Shade Tree Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 27th, 2026 @ 9:00am, EST
City Hall, City Council Chambers, Room 301
861 Asbury Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226**

Meeting Minutes from Wednesday May 27th, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 9:05 A.M.

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

Roll Call:

Present: Joseph Clark, Jr. Joshua Linthicum, Mary Louise Hayes, Donna Moore, Sandra Simpson, Marie Crawford, (Secretary)

Absent: Michael Lehman and Kyle Costello, (City Liaison)

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - none

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from the Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026, were approved by the committee.

Old Business

- No report is available on status of any ongoing public landscaping and/or planting projects.
- State of New Jersey Permitted Trees - Former Governor Murphy published a list of New Jersey's non-permitted trees. The Shade Tree Committee (STC) will review and revise Ocean City's list of recommended trees to update it to agree with the state list. Joe will provide the lists at our next meeting.
- Shade Tree Committee Drive Tour - Monday May 4, 2026. The committee identified city and school properties that would benefit from additional plantings. Joe will update the committee about any plans for the visited sites before the committee makes planting recommendations. Donna will type the notes from the drive tour.
- Arbor Day Ceremony - Friday April 24th, 2026. Joe Clark reported the has been great positive feedback, including a thank you from Mary Beth Lebow at the primary school. A discussion ensued about crape myrtles planted about 6-8 years ago on 6th Street which are doing well.
- Donations - Joe will update the information for the donation from Allyson Kliefoth, for the North end playground after Ms. Kliefoth returns to town this summer.
- Cell Tower Planting - Committee reviewed of Mary Louise Hayes' suggestion for extra plantings to screen around the cell tower and for flood reduction. Joe Clark informed the committee that the cell tower is delayed. Mary Louise's suggestion will be reviewed when plans are presented to STC at a later date.
- Pesticides - Sandy Simpson noted (from an article from Nature Magazine) there is a decline in butterflies due to habitat fragmentation, pesticide use, and loss of native plantings. Donna Moore stated synthetic chemical pesticides are non-essential and cosmetic-only. They are harmful to humans, pets, ocean life, deadly to pollinators and birds, and applied throughout the island. The suggestion was made to eliminate these non-essential toxic chemicals from the island and populate the canopy with more native trees and shrubs to provide habitat, flood mitigation, food for pollinators, and a healthier environment for people and pets.

New Business

- Review of the Planning & Zoning Board applications as they pertain to the Ocean City Shade Tree Ordinance for the following locations:
 - 811 Seventh Street - Subdivision with 4 trees total on plan. Approved.
 - 21 Nassau Road - is not approved. No trees on plan.
 - 501 23rd Street - is not approved. No trees on plan.
 - 3323 Simpson Avenue - 3 trees shown on plan. Approved.
 - 3400-02 West Avenue - Plan shows six trees. Approved. Recommend trees that are flood and salt tolerant, such as honey locust, pin oak, bald cypress.
- Review of the Shade Tree Account - No information available at this time.

- Josh Linthicum mentioned the landscape plan for Roosevelt Blvd., is on county land. The committee would like to be updated on progress of plantings.
- Cash Buyouts - A member asked whether the committee will be informed of cash buyouts. Joe Clark stated he will update the committee at the next meeting.
- Joe Clark stated 35 West Ave. has two diseased trees. Trees will be removed by the homeowner.
- Pending business to be considered at the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th, 2026 @ 9:00 A.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Adjournment of the Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Minutes Submitted by M. Crawford, Secretary
(mgc 05/27/26)