City of Ocean City
Shade Tree Committee Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers, Room 301
861 Asbury Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226

Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, August 26th 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 9:02AM
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. Mary Louise Hayes, Michael Lehman, Donna Moore, Sandra Simpson, and Marie Crawford (Secretary)
Absent: Kyle Costello, (City Liaison) & Joshua Linthicum

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - none

Approval of the Minutes from 7/22/26 - Approved

Old Business:
- Report on ongoing public landscaping and/or planting projects: Michael noted that ornamental shrubs are being removed from the Welcome Center, and London Plane (ornamental) trees around town appear to look unwell due to the last winter. Donna Moore expressed concern for native shrubs to replace ornamental shrubs at the Welcome Center and that pesticides not be used due to the bird sanctuary. Donna suggested we add the Welcome Center to our areas of consideration. Joe suggested the tree line near the golf course (by netting) be considered. Michael said that project is being considered and needs new trees. Joe noted there is a split pear tree at the Humane Society that needs removal and replacement.
- Joe requested that Marie, send all approved 2026 Committee minutes to Doug Bergen, and send each month's minutes to Doug after they are approved by the Committee. Joe asked Marie to send the Committee monthly agenda to Doug Bergen on the Monday before the Shade Tree meeting. The committee expressed concern that the plans are not always available by the Monday prior to our scheduled meeting. Joe stated he will pick up any plans by 4 P.M. on the Monday prior to our scheduled meetings and if out of town will notify Marie. Joe will send all copies of 2026 Committee agendas to Doug Bergen.
- City of Ocean City Approved Tree Planting List: Marie began the process by gathering data on record and additional tree resources highlighting native trees, and trees that do well in coastal areas.
- Cash Buyouts: Joe will followup on cost of cash buyouts.

New Business:
- Review of the Planning & Zoning Board applications as they pertain to the Ocean City Shade Tree ordinance for the following locations:
  - 45 East Station Rd., is not approved. No trees are shown on the plan. Committee recommends the planting of one tree in the governor's strip.
* Joe reminded the committee that the New Jersey Trade Tree Federation conference is scheduled for October 22nd and 23rd, in Cherry Hill. Registration deadline is September 25th, 2026.
* Sandy asked what to do about diseased or removed trees. Joe said to send a communication to Brian Cottrell.
* Mary Louise mentioned that rocks are no longer allowed as ground cover in new construction.
- Review of the Shade Tree Account: No information provided.

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled on September 23rd, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in City Hall Council Chambers.

Public Comment - Donna Saber spoke about a shade tree that was removed from the front of a property she rents. Joe suggested Donna contact Brian Cottrell to report the tree removal from 1324 Asbury Ave.
Adjournment of the Meeting: 9:52 A.M.
Marie Crawford, Secretary
(mgc 7/22/2026)