

City of Cape May
Shade Tree Commission
Auditorium/Live Stream Meeting Minutes of
Tuesday, January 13, 2025
2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Ator called the meeting to order and announced compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Ator led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Vice Chairman Ator, Commissioner Goldstein, Commissioner Werner, Commissioner Sick, Commissioner Seeland.

ABSENT MEMBERS

Commissioner York, Commissioner Preminger.

GUESTS

DPW Representative, Frank McCloskey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Ator motioned, seconded by Commissioner York to approve the minutes of November 18, 2025.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes
Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Abstain
Commissioner Werner - Yes

Street Tree Removal Requests

921 Lafayette Street

Vice Chairman Ator said this is a blue spruce that is at Cape May City Elementary School. The tree is leaning and is in decline with its roots coming out of the ground. Removal was

discussed at the sub committee meeting and replacement was recommended on Arbor Day this year.

Vice Chairman Ator motioned to remove the tree at 921 Lafayette Street with replacement, seconded by Commissioner Seeland.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes
Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner Werner – Yes

Residential Tree Removal Requests

680 Washington Street

Vice Chairman Ator this is a Norway maple that has been trimmed substantially and is continuing to decline. He stated that this was in Commissioner Preminger's district and she did approve the removal. The arborist checked it out and also said it's in severe decline.

Vice Chairman Ator motioned to remove the tree at 680 Washington Street, seconded by Commissioner Seeland.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes
Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner Werner – Yes

394 Congress Street

Vice Chairman Ator stated that there are three existing trees on the property. They are right in the footprint of new construction that is going to take place. The owner did already agree to the replacement of two for one replacement with the trees.

Commissioner Werner motioned to remove the tree at 394 Congress Street, seconded by Commissioner Seeland.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes

Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner Werner – Yes

1046 Virginia Avenue

Vice Chairman Ator said that there is a tree in the right back corner but it's in the way of construction. Removal was recommended and Commissioner York who is in that district approves.

Commissioner Werner motioned to remove the tree at 921 Lafayette Street with replacement, seconded by Commissioner Seeland.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes
Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner Werner – Yes

1330 Ohio Avenue

Vice Chairman Ator stated that this is a large fig tree with multi trunks. It was decided to allow the removal of the tree as long as the tree is replaced.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes
Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner Werner – Yes

New Business

Vice Chairman Ator brought up the meeting schedule for 2026 which will have a day and time change. It is proposed the meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:00pm.

Commissioner Werner accept the STC 2026 meeting schedule, seconded by Vice Chairman Ator.

Vice Chairman Ator – Yes
Commissioner Goldstein - Yes
Commissioner Seeland – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner Werner – Yes

DPW representative Frank McCloskey stated that with the meeting change he would be unable to attend and would have to step down.

Commissioner Werner motioned, seconded by Commissioner Seeland to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Emerick
Cape May City
Shade Tree Commission Secretary