



New Jersey Community Forestry Council

Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

September 9, 2021 10:00am

The September monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council was called to order by Chairperson Brash at 10:09 a.m. and the open Public Meetings Act notice was available on the meeting packet. The roll was taken by Ms. Hart.

Members Present: Bill Brash, Carl Bowles, Donna Drewes, Lori Jenssen, Jason Grabosky, Vinh Lang, Donna Massa, Melanie McDermott, Pam Zipse.

Excused: Barry Emens, Robert Lee, Lisa Simms, Matt Simons

Absent: Mark Beamish, Steve Chisholm, Wayne Dubin, Yvonne Favaro, Kevin Thompson

NJ Forest Service Staff Present: Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Carrie Sargeant, Technical & Operational Advisor Terri Slack, Forester Michael Martini, Program Assistant Shannon Hart, Forestry Technician Emily Farschon, and Forestry Technician Anna Korn and Administrative Analyst 2 Ishia Morton.

Quorum was not met at the beginning of the meeting but was later met at 10:45 am when Carl Bowles signed on.

Minutes:

The meeting minutes from May were reviewed and Dr. Grabosky motioned to approve. Mr. Bowles seconded. The vote was unanimous.

State Forester's Report:

Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Carrie Sargeant gave the State Foresters report. Ms. Sargeant began the State Forester's report by introducing a new hire for the Forest Service Administrative Analyst 2, Ishia Morton. Ms. Morton offered Council information on her work experience. Ms. Sargeant informed Council that the Forester list has been certified and that they would be interviewing candidates for the state lands program and the Urban & Community Forestry program. The interviews are slated to take place late September or early October. Ms. Sargeant also informed Council that DEP employees are required to be in person 2 days per week until October 18th unless an exception has been filed and approved. Ms. Sargeant also informed Council that Mr.

Martini has resumed in person inspections. The State Forest Action Plan is approved and online. Ms. Sargeant informed Council of the new Director of the Division of Parks and Forestry, John Cecil and the interim Director, Robin Madden is now the Deputy Director. The reviews for the 2021 UCF Stewardship grants cycle were completed at the end of August.

Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Brash informed Council that a letter was sent to DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette requesting the dedication of the RGGI funds to Urban & Community Forestry, the letter was sent May 26th, 2021 and Chairperson Brash did not receive a response as of this meeting. Mr. Brash stated he sent the message via email and through the USPS. Chairperson Brash also mentioned the State Forest Action Plan (SFAP) was approved and encouraged Council to read it. Chairperson Brash mentioned the upcoming Shade Tree Federation conference that will take place on October 21st and 22nd.

New Business:

I-Tree Academy Project Presentation – Ms. Farschon and Ms. Korn gave Council a brief presentation on their capstone project for iTree Academy which focussed on inventory data collection, replication, and analysis.

Core & Conference - Ms. Sargeant announced that Core will be offered outside of the NJ Shade Tree Federation conference this year and will be held virtually starting Friday, September 10th. Removing Core Training from the conference allows staff to engage more with stakeholders and attend sessions from the conference. Ms. Sargeant also clarified that funding will still be provided for the conference. Ms. Sargeant informed Council that the UCF staff and other staff from the NJ Forest Service will be set up in the Terrace Room and referred to as the “Branch office.” Ms. Massa also added the precautions and guidelines that the NJ Shade Tree Federation and the venue will be following for this conference

New members- Ms. Sargeant notified Council still has two vacancies for the Council spots and that we have been in contact with two possibilities to fill these vacancies.

Legislative Issues- Ms. Slack provided Council with current legislative updates in the packet and briefly discussed.

NJ Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program Report

Mr. Martini provided the program report to Council. 2022 CFMP plans have been extended. Mr. Martini also notified Council that there were 31 Resiliency grants, and 8 for tree planting, a total of 39 grants applications requesting \$1.4 million in grants. Ms. Sargeant added that since 2016 we have awarded over \$2.4 million in grants. Ms. Sargeant also notified Council that UCF has hired a database consultant to fix our database. The pending plan for next year's round of grants in the

amount of \$2.0 million dollar from unexpended NNL funds is currently with the State Forester for approval and should be ready for the December meeting for Council review.

NNL

Ms. Korn notified Council that there were no new reforestation plans, existing projects are moving forward, and older projects have been getting closed out.

CFMP

- 250 currently approved Community Forest Management Plans (45 first plans, 63 second plans, 68 third plans, 72 fourth plans, 2 fifth plans)
- 10 Plans have been submitted
- 0 plans are up for council review and comment

Compliance Status 2020

- Approved Plans: 250
- Approved Status: 154
- Missing AAR: 19

Compliance Status 2019

- Approved Plans: 244
- Approved Status: 144
- Missing AAR: 31

Grants

- 1 Green Communities Grant, 0 Open Green Communities grants, and there are 0 applications
- 24 Open CSIP Grants

Tree Cities

There are 162 approved Tree Cities 2020.

There are 149 approved Tree Cities for 2019.

License Plates Revenue FY21 Year to June 2021: \$4,497.33

Council Report

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) Review

- 0 new plans were up for review.
- Recommended approval of CFMPs from – N/A
- Need amendments of CFMPs from – N/A

Community Forestry Management Plan Guidelines

Dr. Grabosky offered his support and the committees support to assist with the completion of the new guidelines.

NNL

N/a

Council Business

N/a

Unfinished Business

Since quorum was not reached at the beginning of the meeting, the minutes were reviewed, discussed, and approved at this point in the meeting.

Public Comment

Dr. Grabosky applauded Pam Zipse, Michael Martini and Emily Farschon for their leadership, general awesomeness and guidance to the Society of Municipal Foresters and hosting their online content on a teaching platform.

Mr. Martini thanked Dr. Grabosky and Ms. Zipse for another great round of interns, an ordinance project was wrapped up and a cool cities project from 20 years ago was started.

Ms. Zipse talked about the NJ Forest Service and the wood utilization workshop that was held earlier this summer.

Mr. Lang mentioned a fire workshop in the Pinelands that will be occurring this weekend.

Ms. Zipse also mentioned that the NJ Chapter of ISA has their Tree Climbing competition this weekend and they are still looking for climbers.

Chairperson Brash mentioned the Spotted Lantern Fly sightings and beech leaf disease has been spotted in Monmouth County. Council discussed.

Ms. Jensen informed Council that the Forestry Association, Backyard Forestry online program will have a presenter from Rainbow Tree Service next Thursday, September 16th who will be talking about Beech leaf disease and Spotted lantern Fly. Ms. Jensen will circulate that information to Council.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.