City of Cape May
Shade Tree Commission
Auditorium/Live Stream Meeting Minutes of
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
5:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairman Ator led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ator, Vice Chairman Werner, Commissioner York, Commissioner Goldstein, Commissioner Novino, Commissioner Robinson.

ABSENT MEMBERS

Commissioner Sick, Commissioner Drake

GUESTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner York motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sick to approve the minutes of July 15, 2026.

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Abstain
Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

Street Tree Removal Requests

1112 Virginia Avenue – Commissioner York

Chairman Ator stated that City Landscaper Matt Notch evaluated this tree after being denied in July and recommended approval of removal, as it has several issues.

Commissioner York motioned, seconded by Commissioner Goldstein to approve the removal of the tree a 1112 Virginia Avenue

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Yes
Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

1102 Lafayette Avenue – Commissioner Goldstein

Commissioner Goldstein stated that this tree is completely gone. It was stated that the tree will be replaced as well.

Commissioner Goldstein motioned, seconded by Commissioner York to approve the removal of the tree at 1102 Lafayette Street

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Yes
Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

704 Madison Avenue – Vice Chairman Werner

Vice Chairman Werner stated that there are a lot of dead branches within the tree but believes the tree is healthy. He recommended that the City Landscaper should get rid of the dead branches and put it on the list for review for next year.

Commissioner York motioned, seconded by Commissioner Novino to deny the removal of the tree at 704 Madison Avenue

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Yes

Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

Residential Tree Removal Requests

1513 New Jersey Avenue – Vice Chairman Werner

Vice Chairman Werner stated that he looked at this. It is a tree that is adjacent to the parking lot that has been severely trimmed and pruned through the years. He recommended leaving it be and seeing what happens.

Vice Chairman Werner motioned, seconded by Commissioner York to deny the removal of the Japanese black pine at 1513 New Jersey Avenue.

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Yes
Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

2 Swan Avenue Avenue – Chairman Ator

Commissioner York stated that she believes this is a large, healthy tree that could maybe be trimmed. Commissioner Robinson commented that it was a beautiful tree. City Landscaper Matt Notch stated that his company pruned the tree over the last 15 years and it is in good health. He doesn't believe it should be removed.

Commissioner York motioned, seconded by Commissioner Goldstein to deny the removal of the tree at 2 Swan Avenue.

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Yes
Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

909 Corgie Street – Commissioner Drake

Chairman Ator stated that there is a purple leaf plum that is not in terrible shape, a hackberry that is grown into the fence which would need permission from the neighbor, and a white birch that is leaning towards the house. He stated that he believes they can allow the removal of the trees but would need two other trees to be planted. Discussion was had about the replacements and they need to know the measurements prior to voting.

Commissioner York motioned, seconded by Vice Chairman Werner to refer the situation to Code Enforcement

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Novino – Yes
Commissioner Robinson - Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

1363 Virginia Avenue – Commissioner York

Commissioner York stated that she went out to look at these trees and they were no longer there. This would need to be referred to Code Enforcement.

Commissioner York motioned, seconded by Commissioner Sick to approve the removal of the tree at 1430 Missouri Avenue waiving the $75.00 fee and no requirement to plant a replacement tree.

Commissioner Goldstein – Yes
Commissioner Sick – Yes
Commissioner York – Yes
Commissioner Drake – Yes
Vice Chairman Werner – Yes
Chairman Ator – Yes

New Business

Chairman Ator stated that the homeowners at 1351 Delaware Avenue planted two stret trees. He stated that this is not normally allowed and he would pay them a visit.

Commissioner York stated that 59% of the funds in the tree maintenance account have been used. 38% of the overall budget has been used and the grant account for lantern flies has $8,000.00 in it.

Council liaison Meir stated that there will be mailing information going out to homeowners in October. It will include information about tree of heaven and the ordinances.

Vice Chairman Werner motioned, Commissioner York seconded to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Emerick
Cape May City
Shade Tree Commission Secretary