



## **New Jersey Community Forestry Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Virtual Meeting

March 11, 2021 10:00am

The March monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council was called to order by Chairperson Brash at 10:03 a.m. and the open Public Meetings Act notice was available on the meeting packet. The roll was taken by Ms. Hart.

**Members Present:** Mark Beamish, William Brash, Carl Bowles, Steve Chisholm, Donna Drewes, Barry Emens Yvonne Favaro, Jason Grabosky, Vinh Lang, Robert Lee, Melanie McDermott, Donna Massa, Lisa Simms, Matt Simons, Kevin Thompson, Pam Zipse.

**Excused:** Wayne Dubin, Lori Jenssen,

#### **Absent:**

**NJ Forest Service Staff Present:** State Forester John Sacco, 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

Quorum was met.

#### **Minutes:**

The meeting minutes from January were reviewed and Mr. Bowles motioned to approve. Mr. Chisholm seconded. The vote was unanimous, Mr. Emens and Ms. Drewes abstained.

#### **State Forester's Report:**

State Forester Sacco notified Council that there has been some distribution of the proceeds of the RGGI funds at this point we have not received any funding, we were approved to back fill six of the 11 vacancies in the agency and we are moving forward accordingly with that, there has been some discussions about potentially using some No Net Loss monies to fund a three year position at Rutgers, we have been approved to expend 2 million dollars in NJUCF stewardship grants this year, State Forester Sacco also provided Council with a candidate to fill one of the

vacancies on Council. Donna Drewes motioned, Matt Simons seconded to draft and send a letter to the Commissioner inquiring about the release of the RGGI funding plan regarding to the forestry initiative, the vote was unanimous.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Chairperson Brash announced the New Jersey Division of SAF has their annual meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will be held virtually.

Chairperson Brash also announced that there is a job opening for Hackettstown that is geared toward Forestry.

**New Business:**

UCF Stewardship Grants- The spending plan was put in last year and was approved for this years round of grants. Ms. Sargeant stated that they are working on putting the RFP together. The grant categories will be the same as we have done in the past four years, resiliency planting and reforestation and tree planting grants. Since 2016 we have award \$2.4 million in grants, Ms. Sargeant proposed increasing the grants for the inventory grants from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and tree planting to \$150,000. Council discussed.

RGGI- This was discussed in the State Foresters report earlier in this meeting.

Climate Change - Ms. Slack referred to the document in the packet and briefly discussed. Ms. Sargeant added that climate change was also brought up in her presentation for the ISA conference in relation to the State Forest Action Plan (SFAP).

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. Mr. Martini informed Council that Spring Core started today and updated Council on our website and that it should go live soon. Mr. Martini also informed Council of the Urban Wood workshop that is coming up and will circulate the save the date to Council.

NNL

Ms. Korn notified Council that plans that were up for review have gotten conditional approvals.

## **CFMP**

- 249 currently approved Community Forest Management Plans (45 first plans, 63 second plans, 67 third plans, 72 fourth plans, 2 fifth plans)
- 12 Plans have been submitted.
- 1 plan is up for council review and comment.

## **Compliance Status 2020**

- Approved Plans: 249
- Approved Status: 128
- Missing AAR: 35

## **Compliance Status 2019**

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

## **Grants**

- 7 Green Communities Grant, 43 Open Green Communities grants, and there are no applications
- 36 Open CSIP Grants

## **Tree Cities**

There are 119 approved Tree Cities 2020.

There are 149 approved Tree Cities for 2019.

**License Plates Revenue FY20 Year to June 2020: \$46,397.71**

## **Council Report**

### **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) Review**

- 1 new plan was up for review.
- Recommended approval of CFMPs from – Mahwah
- Need amendments of CFMPs from – N/A

*In February, Bernardsville was recommended for approval.*

### **Community Forestry Management Plan Guidelines**

Ms. Sargeant informed Council that they do have a sample inventory of street trees from Gloucester City and the full report from DVRPC. Ms. Sargeant will reach out to the committee soon.

**NNL**

No comments were provided.

**Council Business**

Ms. Massa informed Council that New Jersey Shade Tree Federation is starting to plan their program for the annual conference and that the board is encouraging an in-person meeting but the final decision will be made in June.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.