



New Jersey Community Forestry Council

Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

May 13, 2021 10:00am

The May monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council was called to order by Chairperson Brash at 10:04 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, Donna Drewes, Wayne Dubin, Lori Jossen, Barry Emens, Yvonne Favaro, Jason Grabosky, Vinh Lang, Robert Lee, Donna Massa, Melanie McDermott, Lisa Simms, Pam Zipse.

Excused: Steve Chisholm, Matt Simons, Kevin Thompson

Absent:

NJ Forest Service Staff Present: Bureau Chief Todd Wyckoff, 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 March were reviewed and Dr. Grabosky motioned to approve. Mr. Lang seconded. The vote was unanimous.

State Forester's Report:

Bureau Chief Todd Wyckoff gave the State Foresters report. Bureau Chief Wyckoff announced that John Cecil is now the Director of the Division of Parks and Forestry and offered to Council a little background information on the new Director. He also announced that Robin Madden will stay on as the Deputy Director and also offered to Council some of Deputy Director Madden's background. Bureau Chief Wyckoff informed Council that there has not been an update on the State Forest Action plan as far as they understand it is still under review. The 2021 RFP for Urban and Community Forestry Stewardship Grants was posted today. Bureau Chief Wyckoff announced that the department hired an Administrative

Analyst 2, Isha Morton. He also announced a few folks that were retiring Richard Barker, Maria Valentin and Mike Vorwerk. The Federal grant narratives are due soon so folks have been working through that process. The J. Sterling Morton Award has been awarded to Clay Bosch of Woodcliff Lake. Clay has been volunteering with the Shade Tree Commission for over 50 years. Bureau Chief Wyckoff also notified Council about a national natural and working lands working group that our Governor has participated in for quite some time and folks such as John Sacco and Olivia Glenn went to participate in a meeting in Washington DC, a few years ago to talk about the states forest management strategies. The DEP administration is trying to work towards that with a more New Jersey specific natural and working Lands Group. Folks from various programs and groups have joined in and are working on a strategy document. Our big focus is on making sure that any document that comes out of the DEP and the administration is consistent with the Forest Action Plan and the diversification strategies that are outlined there. Bureau Chief mentioned RGGI but there was no update at this time but as he understands forestry is still on the table to be funded. Council discussed sending a letter to the Commissioner to follow up on the release of the RGGI funding plan

Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Brash inquired if there was a date when the State would reopen. Ms. Sargeant replied that the staff offices are open and some folks are going in and some remain working remote.

New Business:

J. Sterling Morton – Ms. Sargeant informed Council that Clay Bosch was chosen to be the recipient for 2021 J. Sterling Morton award. Ms. Massa offered to Ms. Sargeant that we can recognize Mr. Bosch at the NJ Shade Tree Federation conference this year.

Tree City USA - The Shade Tree Federation is still discussing. Ms. Sargeant informed Council that Tree City USA was removed from the Federal narrative.

UCF Stewardship Grants- Ms. Sargeant informed Council that the RFP went out yesterday and the talked about the different grant categories that were available to folks this round.

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 also informed Council of the Urban Wood workshop that is coming up noting there was also a flyer in the packet. He also informed Council that we got the green light to hire a database person and will be moving forward with that.

NNL

Ms. Korn notified Council that there was no new reforestation plans, existing projects are moving forward and older plans 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: 249
- Approved Status: 128
- Missing AAR: 35

Compliance Status 2019

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

Grants

- 4 Green Communities Grant, 0 Open Green Communities grants, and there are 0 applications
- 33 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: \$58,935.16

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

Ms. Sargeant updated Council that the inventory work was completed in Gloucester City, and we are waiting on the report. Ms. Sargeant will reach out to the committee to schedule a meeting and hopes to have a draft for review soon.

NNL

No comments were provided.

Council Business

Ms. Massa informed Council that New Jersey Shade Tree Federation that they are still discussing the virtual/in person conference for the Fall.

Dr. Grabosky announced that they are moving forward with the non-tenure track new hire position for the Rutgers forestry extension, specifically the best management practices and forestry and that they are currently finalizing the release of this position.

Unfinished Business

None

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.