



New Jersey Community Forestry Council

Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

January 14, 2021 10:00am

The January monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council was called to order by Vice Chairperson Dubin 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, Carl Bowles, Steve Chisholm, Wayne Dubin, Yvonne Favaro, Jason Grabosky, Eric Griffith, Lori Jossen, Vinh Lang, Robert Lee, Melanie McDermott, Donna Massa, Lisa Simms, Matt Simons, Kevin Thompson, Pam Zipse.

Excused: William Brash, Donna Drewes, Barry Emens

Absent: Eric Griffith

NJ Forest Service Staff Present: Bureau Chief Todd Wyckoff, 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 December were reviewed and Mr. Simons motioned to approve. Mr. Bowles seconded. The vote was unanimous.

State Forester's Report:

Bureau Chief Wyckoff announced that DEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe is retiring tomorrow, and Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff Shawn LaTourette will be replacing her as acting Commissioner. The State Forest Action Plan (SFAP) has been submitted to the U.S. Forest Service for review and approval. We received approvals to interview and hire two Foresters at this point. We are working with our communication staff to update the NJ Forest Service's website to make it more functional. Ms. Massa inquired about an update on the spending plan. Bureau Chief Wyckoff informed Council that the spending plan has been

approved. Mr. Martini noted that they are just waiting on the amounts but did add that there will be a round of grants this year. Ms. Zipse inquired about the database. Mr. Wyckoff informed Council that he is aware of the problems with the database and that folks in the Office of Information Technology have been made aware of the problem. Presently we are working to patch the database until it can be migrated over to the DEP's database system known as NJEMS (NJ Environmental Management System), which is a longer-term solution. Ms. Farschon made a backup of the database and we can function at this time.

Chairperson's Report:

Vice Chairperson Dubin informed Council that the ad hoc committee has formulated a letter that was delivered to State Forester Sacco regarding program funds (spending plan) and the database, and that State Forester Sacco has confirmed receipt of that letter. Ms. Zipse also inquired about the funds that were potentially frozen and/or reallocated due to COVID. Mr. Wyckoff replied that to his understanding the reserve funding has not yet been released but said he could follow up. Ms. Favaro requested that a copy of the letter be circulated to Council.

New Business:

Tree City USA- Mr. Martini reported that discussion is continuing on how the NJFS will proceed with the Tree City USA applications. Ms. Massa reported that she and other members of the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation (NJSTF) met with representatives from the Arbor Day Foundation to go over what is involved in the Tree City program, and how much time it takes. The NJSTF has not made a decision regarding the Tree City program at this time; they are looking for more information.

Term Expirations/Council Website- Council was reminded to send a letter of interest if their term has/is expiring. Ms. Hart noted that we have received some correspondence from Council members and that we will await Ms. Sargeant's return to address these. Mr. Martini asked if Council members would provide a short bio and picture for the updated website and send that to either himself or Ms. Hart as soon as possible.

EAB Update- Mr. Martini referred to the Handout provided in the packet.

Legislative Issues- Ms. Slack provided Council with current legislative updates. Council discussed updates and their efforts in the legislative matters. Ms. Slack also notified Council about a new bill that was not on the list -- A5263, which requires an electric public utility to reimburse costs of certain customer-owned electric service equipment if damage to equipment is due to a weather event affecting electric public utility service.

NJ Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program Report

Mr. Martini provided the program report to Council. Mr. Martini informed Council that we are starting to get Annual Accomplishment Reports (AARs) in. He also reported on some grants that were paid out.

NNL

Ms. Korn notified Council that there are still two plans on the portal for review. An update regarding these plans was sent recently to the No Net Loss (NNL) committee members. If anyone has comments please provide them to Ms. Korn.

CFMP

- 249 currently approved Community Forest Management Plans (45 first plans, 63 second plans, 68 third plans, 71 fourth plans, 2 fifth plans)
- 12 Plans have been submitted
- 1 plan is up for council review and comment

Compliance Status 2020

- Approved Plans: 246
- Approved Status: 0
- Missing AAR: n/a

Compliance Status 2019

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

Grants

- 9 Green Communities Grant, 74 Open Green Communities grants, and there are 0 applications
- 44 Open CSIP Grants

Tree Cities

There are 149 approved Tree Cities 2019.

There are 166 approved Tree Cities for 2018.

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 – Atlantic Highlands
- Need amendments of CFMPs from – N/A

Community Forestry Management Plan Guidelines

Mr. Martini had no update to provide at this time. Dr. Grabosky announced that a few Rutgers students had some ideas regarding the guidelines.

NNL

No comments were provided.

Council Business

Ms. Massa inquired about CORE and CEU numbers from the NJSTF conference.

Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) virtual summit.

Ms. Slack notified Council about the new online pesticide exam portal.

Mr. Dubin notified Council of the upcoming March Garden State Tree conference.

Unfinished Business

None

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.