

New Jersey Community Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes
In-Person and Virtual Meeting, Forest Resource Education Center
March 13, 2025; 10:00 AM

The January bi-monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council (“Council”) was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Pam Zipse at 10am and the Open Public Meetings Act notice was read. The notice was also available in the meeting packet. The roll call was taken by Brian McDonald.

Members Present: Kristin Ace, Mark Beamish, Neal Blitz, Carl Bowles, Amanda Diamond, Dr. Jason Grabosky, Joseph M. Greipp, Michael Martini, Marty Mayes, Dr. Melanie McDermott, Ryan Metz, Taylor Sapudar, Lisa Simms, Pam Zipse

Excused: William Brash, Steve Chisholm, Tim Ifill, Lori Jennsen, Dr. Matthew Olson

Absent: Vinh Lang

NJ Forest Service Present: State Forester Todd Wyckoff, Michael Hart, Patricia Shapella, Brian McDonald, Ryan Bellinger, David DeCredico, Delysse Leonard, Victoria Bec, Rachael Vannatta, Terri Slack, and Cara Escalona. Quorum was met upon completion of the roll call.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/9/2024 Meeting

Motion to approve from Joe Greipp, second from Lisa Simms. Unanimously approved.

State Forester’s Report

State Forester Todd Wyckoff announced that Rachael Vannatta is leaving the NJFS for a position in Minnesota. Mr. Wyckoff congratulated Joe Greipp and NJ ISA on a wonderful conference. Mr. Wyckoff announced that the NJFA annual meeting is taking place on Saturday, March 15 at Rutgers, with participation from NJFS. Mr. Wyckoff announced that NJ is hosting the urban NMSFA meeting mid-May, in Cherry Hill. Mr. Wyckoff reminded council members of Arbor Day, to be held April 25th, in Orange at Military Park, at 9am. Mr. Wyckoff announced Regional Forester promotions for the FREC/Nursery, Forest Health/Carbon & Climate, and Private Lands. Additional hires have been made as well for the Nursery and State Lands programs. Mr. Wyckoff spoke about the NJ IRA related funding and moving forward with federal funding. Mr. Wyckoff requested council members that have contacts with municipalities who are missing their AAR to help reach out to their contacts.

Chairperson’s Report

Ms. Zipse mentioned the NJFA meeting on Saturday March 15th at Rutgers. She also noted that the Society of American Foresters annual meeting will be taking place Friday May 21, at the FREC. Ms. Zipse noted that CFMP activity and submissions are picking up, which is exciting. Ms. Zipse congratulated NJ ISA and Joe Greipp on an excellent conference, and noted that the speakers on pruning were very interesting and pertinent. NJSTF will be hosting Tree Talks on Wednesday’s in the

evening, with a schedule on their website. Ms. Zipse stated that NJTF is excited about Arbor Day and looking forward to the event.

New Business

Fiscal Report

Pat Shapella reported on the fiscal state of the program, which was provided to council.

Program Report

Ryan Bellinger provided the program report, including the approval of Moorestown's CFMP, which was provided to council. Discussion ensued.

Legislative Issues

Terri Slack provided the legislative report, which was provided to council. Discussion ensued around the legislative report.

Subcommittee Reports

Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) Review committee noted that the Moorestown Twp CFMP has been approved.

CFMP Guidelines

No Net Loss (NNL) Sub-committee noted that the DMAVA Vineland Vehicle Maintenance Shop project (3165 1760) received approval to proceed from the program.

Council Business

None

Unfinished Business

None

Public Comment

Neil Blitz offered to reach out to a number of municipalities missing AAR's.

Pam Zipse reminded council members that the NJSTF conference is October 16 & 17, 2025 and is the 100th anniversary.