

**BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 19, 2019
7:00 P.M. BOROUGH HALL**

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:03 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Borough Clerk Reibrich. “The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk’s office.”

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President White, Council members: Butler, Watson, Fama and Maloney

Absent: Councilwoman Horowitz

Also Present: Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, Borough Engineer/Planner Peter Avakian and Borough Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich

1. **2019 ROAD PROJECTS** – *Borough Engineer, Peter Avakian presents*

Mayor Nohilly announced that the discussion regarding road projects would be moved to the end of the meeting.

2. **PROPOSED TREE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS** – *led by Councilman Fama*

Councilman Fama presented changes to the Tree Ordinance that are being proposed by the Shade Tree Commission. The Commission would like to see a shift away from allowing a specific number of trees to be taken down and redirect the focus to protecting the larger specimen older trees within the Borough.

Councilman Fama used the term ‘Heritage Trees’ to describe these older trees that the Commission would like to preserve. A Heritage Tree would be defined as a tree of 40in circumference at 4 ft high from ground. The Commission would like to see the Code Enforcement Officer and his designee, which could be deemed the Shade Tree Commission, decide whether circumstances justify removing a tree. Heritage trees may only be removed in most compelling and extraordinary circumstance.

Council discussed the details of these changes to the ordinance pertaining to heritage tree size and variety, what circumstances would be considered compelling and what circumstances would require tree replacement. Drastically increasing penalties for non-compliance were discussed. Increases to the application fees were also considered.

Borough Attorney Shaklee made recommendations regarding changes to some language for clarification of the proposed changes.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich expressed the need for there to be a practical plan for the office implementation of the ordinance changes.

Councilman Fama was tasked with drafting the requested changes from this meeting. Borough Administrator Reibrich will receive the changes from Councilman Fama and work on the formal ordinance for introduction.

2019 ROAD PROJECTS – *Borough Engineer, Peter Avakian presents*

Borough Engineer/Planner Avakian reviewed various road projects throughout the Borough. The Borough received a Transportation Trust Fund Grant from the State of New Jersey of \$200,000. The project scope was for work on Woodmere Road and Rona Street. The application request was for \$450,000. The State awarded \$200,000 towards the project. The Streets and Roads Committee decided that Woodmere Road would be the road to focus on with the grant money. The approximate construction costs would be \$177,000. The State does not reimburse the design cost but could reimburse inspection fees.

Borough Engineer/Planner Avakian stated that the Streets and Roads Committee chose to pursue the completion of Scarba Street to Bendermere Avenue with municipal capital improvement money. The construction cost estimate for those two blocks is \$115,000. Both Woodmere Road and Scarba Street can be completed for the amount of money that will be available. Rona Street was left on the proposed plan, so the full grant funding can be utilized.

The Board discussed ways of funding the proposed road project for Rona Street.

Borough Engineer Avakian advised the Board that he and Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich will be meeting with New Jersey American Water regarding street repairs to streets damaged by the line replacement project and outlined these streets for Council explaining the possible effects on the road projects previously proposed.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich stated that the bid would be written so that Woodmere Road would be the main bid and Scarba and Rona would be on the bid as alternates.

Timing of the projects were discussed by Council with the desired completion for fall, which may be difficult due to the timing.

Borough Engineer/Planner Avakian got notice of funding from the DOT but has not yet received the Grant Agreement. Bids cannot go out to bid until the grant agreement is received. The project must be completed within 18 months from the receipt of the Grant Agreement. The Streets and Roads Committee is looking to start the project in the fall but is not sure there will be enough time.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Reibrich discussed the timing for the Bond Ordinance.

3. **NEW BUSINESS** – No new business.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Marguerite Dalton, resident of 419 Grassmere Avenue and Shade Tree Commission member, stated that Councilman Fama has been fantastic in his role as the Council Liaison.

Ms. Dalton also informed Council that in regard to the tree ordinance, the State has changed designation from a certified tree expert to be a licensed tree expert.

Jodi Heinz, 512 Bridlemere Avenue and Shade Tree Commission Chairperson agreed with Ms. Dalton and stated that Councilman Fama has been amazing.

Councilman Watson stated that he the appreciated the Borough tree canopy and asked about requesting residents to sponsor trees on their property.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the Shade Tree Commission only has jurisdiction of the trees on public land.

Councilman Fama noted that the commission's funding is limited as it is for improvement of public trees.

Ms. Heinz stated that the budget of \$8,000 is used to plant trees on public property. The Commission is able to plant 10 trees this year only because the Borough DPW is helping with the planting.

Ms. Heinz stated that the Shade Tree chooses the Yard of the Month to recognize mature trees on the property and residents do ask the Shade Tree Commission for advice regarding trees on their property.

There was a brief discussion regarding buying wholesale trees and increasing resources for residents on the Borough website. Ms. Dalton stated that residents have called the Shade Tree Commission regarding trees on their property and they are willing to go out to peoples' property. The Commission would like to encourage education.

Ms. Heinz stated that the Shade Tree Commission is working with a certified tree expert who has helped the town of Freehold with information on their website and are working on putting that information together for placement on Interlaken's website.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the Borough is proud of our Shade Tree Commission.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments from the Governing Body, Council President White made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Fama and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Butler	Councilman Watson	Councilwoman Maloney	Councilman Fama
Motion to Approve		X					
Motion to Second							X
Approved		X		X	X	X	X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused			X				

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Clerk/Administrator