



New Jersey Community Forestry Council  
Meeting Minutes  
In-Person and Virtual Meeting, FREC  
March 14, 2024; 10:00 AM

The December 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: Mark Beamish, Carl Bowles, Dr. Melanie McDermott, Kristin Ace, Pam Zipse, Lisa Simms, Vinh Lang, Lori Jenssen, Joseph Greipp, Michael Martini  
Excused: Steve Chisholm, Barry Emens, William Brash, Neil Blitz, Dr. Jason Grabosky, Dr. Matthew Olson

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/11/2024 Meeting**

Pam Zipse called attention to the December meeting minutes. Lisa Simms moved to approve, seconded by Kristin Ace. Vote to approve was unanimous with Michael Martini, Vinh Lang, and Lori Jenssen abstaining.

**State Forester’s Report**

State Forester Todd Wyckoff invited council to join the program at Arbor Day in Camden. Mr. Wyckoff congratulated the NJ ISA chapter on a wonderful and successful conference, attended by multiple NJFS staff members. Mr. Wyckoff also thanked the NJ Shade Tree Federation for their ongoing work on the MS4 webinar series. Mr. Wyckoff introduced and welcomed new members of the NJUCF team, attending the meeting.

**Chairperson’s Report**

Pam Zipse congratulated everyone on the CFMP Guidelines being posted and getting across the finish line. Mr. Brash presented the guidelines update at the BTE dinner meeting and was optimistic about the response received. Discussion ensued regarding plan expiration dates and approval process.

**New Business:****Fiscal Report**

Patricia Shapella reported on the fiscal state of the program, which was provided in the packet.

**Program Report**

Mr. McDonald provided the program report, also included in the packet. It was noted that program Annual Accomplishment Reports was due Feb. 15. Discussion ensued surrounding CFMP due dates.

**Legislative Issues**

Ms. Slack provided the legislative report, also included in the packet. Discussion ensued surrounding current legislation.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Guidelines Subcommittee discussed idea to pivot focus on supporting rollout of guidelines.

No Net Loss report included in packet.

**Unfinished Business:**

Kristin Ace brought up the topics of CFMP and Tree Planting grants and discussion ensued on these topics.

**Public Comment:**