

Closter Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 13, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Held remotely via Zoom

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Present: Nils Abate, Chair; Todd Bradbury; Scott Devlin, Council Liaison; George Futterknecht; Miriam Lockhart, Secretary/Environmental Commission Liaison; George Paschalis; Daniel Serata; Tsun Tam

Absent: Anthony Lupardi, Sr.

IV. Approval of Minutes.

The November 8, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.

V. Public Comment - Grace Vasquez, 246 Demarest Ave. Requesting the Commission reconsider denial to remove shade tree

VI. Old Business

a) Fall foliage photo contest. winner Nourit Elam attended virtual M&C meeting 12.8.21. Display is at library.

b) STC table skirt and banner have been delivered. These branded materials very helpful for STC advocacy.

c) 47 Knickerbocker update: BD informed that Arrow Tree recommended the additional tree be removed. STC mitigation requirements are based on canopy at time of application. Is STC being informed when additional trees are removed?

d) Tree planting. 50 trees were planted. Difficult to get parrotia this year. More big trees were planted. Commission recommends to plant 40-50 trees for 2022. A very impactful planting for Closter. Thank you to TJ McCaffrey for an additional 4 plantings. Concern about watering trees over the summer. Procedures to be developed for watering to ensure survival of newly planted shade trees. Community service work programs through colleges. STC used tree maintenance budget in the past.

e) Tree removals #2 - 4 quotes received. We Care Tree Care. 95% completed.

f) Tree pruning, Dist. 3 and downtown - 3 quotes received DeCarlo. Will take place in Jan/Feb.

g) NJUCF grant.

- Questions from NJDEP answered by Chair Abate. Chair Abate will email copies of the questions/answers to the Commission.
- Estimate for software: Up to \$5,000 in addition to cost of the tree inventory.

- Councilman Devlin informed that M&C authorized Borough Administrator to sign the grant agreement with the DEP.
- Steering subcommittee: Chair Abate, Mr. Bradbury, Mr. Paschalis.
Recommended to take CEU's.

VI. New Business

- a) 2022 budget - Budget subcommittee: Chair Abate; Mr. Paschalis, Mr. Serata.
- b) 246 Demarest Ave - request to reconsider STC denial to remove or prune back shade tree.

- c) Tree removals in Closter 2021.

Jan 1 - Dec 7, there were 230 tree removal permits. 563 trees removed
Mass loss in the private property. The Borough ROW/trees planted by the STC should not waver.

We need to use social media.

More advocacy to schools, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts

- d) Mayor's newsletter submission for next month

VII. Inspection Requests

None received

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a) Governing body

New CFO, and new head of BD have been hired

New BD Construction Code Official

Funds from the Tree Fund were used to purchase all the trees needed.

Ordinance 2021:2021-1283

Ordinance 2021: 1284

IX. Plans from Building Department. Review and comment

- a. 4 Jays Court
- b. 15 Demarest Avenue
- c. 31 Dana Pl
- d. 54 Hickory Lane

X. Adjournment: 9:46 p.m.

