

**Closter Shade Tree Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 11, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Held remotely via Zoom

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Nils Abate, Chair; Todd Bradbury; George Futterknecht; George Paschalis; Daniel Serata; Tsun Tam

Absent: Scott Devlin, Council Liaison; Miriam Lockhart, Secretary/Environmental Commission Liaison; Anthony Lupardi, Sr.

**III. Approval of Minutes.**

The September 13, 2021 minutes were approved as written.

**IV. Public Comment - none**

**V. Old Business**

- a) Watering newly planted shade trees. Borough attorney provided guidelines to determine which shade trees are on Borough property and which on private property.
- b) Table skirt/banner - Ms. Weatherly will report back to the Shade Tree Commission.
- c) NJUCF Stewardship Grant - NJDEP will contact the STC to schedule required meeting.
- d) 2021 Pruning for District 3. Mr. Bradbury will clarify procedures for pruning young trees. Trees in downtown business district need crown reduction.

**VI. New Business**

- a) 1 Ruckman Rd. - 4 trees damaged by topping. Two Do Not Prune letters have been sent in prior years. Tree has been topped for the third year. Two possible penalties: i.) penalty as allowed in STC ordinance, up to \$1,500/tree. ii.) second penalty = replacement value of the tree; quote to be provided by vendor.

Mr. Paschalis: Motion made for \$500 per tree fine X 4 trees. Plus replacement value of trees as determined by Mr. William F. Fuchs

Mr. Futterknecht: second

Approved unanimously

- b) Mayor's newsletter - photo contest: fall foliage in Closter trees.

- c) 1 Heaton Ct. request to plant 3 trees is being considered. Shade trees should be planted 20 feet apart; there are other trees already.

- d) 54 Venus Drive - Do Not Prune letter sent to homeowner.

- e) Planting. \$10,000 in budget. Suggestion made to use \$5,000 of the funds for watering, for a total of \$15,000 for planting. Number of trees to be planted will be known end of October.

f) District 3 pruning.

Mr. Bradbury: motion to go out for pruning quotes for Dist. 3, and crown reduction of pear trees in business district. Scope of work to be adjusted according to budget.

Mr. Tam: second

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Inspection Requests**

- a. 62 Trautwein - Recommendation to lift up the concrete and replace it with asphalt, to save the tree.
- b. 41 Ryerson - tree is not within STC jurisdiction.
- c. 10-14 Maplewood - 1 tree. Tree is sound. No action.
- d. 58 Fairview - tree is dead. Remove.

#### **VIII. Liaison Reports**

- a) Governing body - Councilman Devlin absent
- b) Environmental Commission - Ms. Lockhart absent

#### **IX. Plans from Building Department. Review and comment**

- a. 4 Jays Court
- b. 15 Demarest Ave

#### **X. Adjournment: 9:01 p.m.**

