



Closter Shade Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

8:00 p.m.

[held remotely via Zoom]

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Commission Members present:

Nils Abate, Chair

Todd Bradbury

Scott Devlin, Council Liaison

George Futterknecht

Miriam Lockhart, Secretary/Env.Comm Liaison

George Paschalis

Daniel Serata

Tsun Tam

Commissioners absent:

Anthony Lupardi, Sr.

Also present:

John Glidden, Mayor

No members of the public were present.

III. Approval of Minutes

The January 10, 2022 Minutes were unanimously approved with the following clarifications:

a) 42 Lawrence/401 Homans (Old Business)

- “It was noted a concrete sidewalk was used in lieu of asphalt around the tree.”
- “A zone of protection was not installed around the tree, despite a request to the homeowner.”

b) 2022 Budget (Old Business)

- “Mr. Paschalis *requested the estimated cost to purchase and plant a tree?*”

c) 558 High Street (New Business)

- “...why two trees *were* planted...”

IV. Oath of Allegiance Administered by Mayor Glidden

Mayor Glidden administered the oath of allegiance to the following Shade Tree Commission members:

Miriam Lockhart (5-year term ending 12/31/2026)

George Paschalis (5-year term ending 12/31/2026)

Daniel Serata (2-year term, ending 12/31/2023)

V. Correspondence

No correspondence

VI. Old Business

a) NJUCF Tree Inventory Grant

The Commission reviewed the draft Request For Proposals and voted to approve same and send to the Borough Administrator for completion and posting. A motion was made by Mr. Paschalis, seconded by Mr. Devlin. The vote was unanimous.

b) 2022 budget

Mr. Abate attended a Council budget meeting to defend the Commission's budget. \$28,037.80 remains in the Tree Fund.

Mr. Bradbury suggested any surplus funding might be directed to the incremental replacement of the downtown's aging pear trees. Replacement plantings may benefit from the use of structural soil as used successfully at Heidenberg Plaza.

c) Street Tree Pruning

De Carlo completed pruning on Main Street and is 50% complete with District 3.

Mr. Bradbury noted a productive meeting with the company to discuss pruning techniques for trees under 6" caliper.

d) 63 Harvard Street

Ms. Lockhart reported on various permit violations.

e) Canopy loss

Mr. Abate reviewed various communications relative to the Commission's efforts to clarify the Borough's shade tree canopy loss. A request will be made to the Borough Administrator for additional information.

f) 1 Ruckman Road

The Commission discussed the feasibility of enforcing tree commitments memorialized in Land Use Board resolutions.

g) 40 Pine Street

The Commission discussed various tree removals and topping at this address.

VII. New Business

a) 317 Harrington Avenue

Following a motion by Ms. Lockhart and seconded by Mr. Paschalis, the Commission voted unanimously to fine the property owner \$500 per tree for the topping of two shade trees. The Commission will perform structural repair work once the trees have had a chance to grow.

b) Replacement Trees for Downtown

Mr. Bradbury reviewed several innovative techniques for planting trees in a downtown environment—including the use of structural soil and Silva cells—and suggested Musashino Zelkova as a replacement to the aging Pears.

c) Mayor's Newsletter

The Commission discussed several potential topics for the upcoming Newsletter.

d) Removal of trees on Division Street

The Commission discussed the removal of six trees—two maples and three pears—on Division Street (near High Street).

e) 2022 Arbor Day

The Commission discussed the need to begin planning for the Arbor Day festivities, including the annual Poster Contest and tree plantings at the Schools.

VIII Liaison Reports

a) Governing Body—Mr. Devlin reported on an upcoming Borough meeting to discuss the enforcement of shade tree laws.

b) Environmental Commission—Ms. Lockhart apprised the Commission of a planned “Closter Clean-Up Day” in April. Applying for Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Grant.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment 9:30 pm