

Closter Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022

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; Tsun Tam
Absent: Anthony Lupardi, Sr.; Daniel Serata

IV. Approval of Minutes.

The December 13, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.

V. Public Comment - none

VI. Old Business

a. NJUCF grant - STC steering committee is working on RFP

b. 2022 budget - Councilman Devlin will work with Borough financial officers.
Council budget committee to meet early February 2022.
Mr. Paschalis asked what is the cost to plant each tree. \$685.
Councilman Devlin will forward reconciled tree fund.

c. 63 Harvard St. - Ms. Lockhart and Mr. Paschalis noted that more trees have
been removed than allowed, zones of protection have not been installed around all
trees, an excavator is parked adjacent to a tree, heavy limbs directly under another
tree, all in violation of Borough code.

d. Canopy loss in Closter. Document with satellite imagery?
Chair Abate will consult with Paul Cowie, who provided the 2019-2023 Borough
Community Forestry Management Plan, about what satellite imagery is available.

e. 2021 removals have been completed.

f. 2021 pruning (DeCarlo) is delayed due to illness among the workers. DeCarlo
will work with Mr. Futterknecht on District 3 and with Mr. Bradbury to review
techniques for structural pruning of young trees.

g. 42 Lawrence/401 Homans - zones of protection are not set up.

- A procedure needs to be in place in the Building Dept. to insure
that zones of protection are installed prior to permits being issued.
Consult with Construction Code Official Jezequel.

h. Mr. Paschalis inquired about efforts to save the existing shade tree at 401 Homans/401 Lawrence Ave. It was noted that concrete was installed around the tree instead of the asphalt recommended by the Borough Engineer. Mr. Bradbury noted there are currently challenges ensuring that zones of protection are installed prior to permits being issued.

- Consult with Construction Code Official Jezequel regarding alignment of Building Dept. procedures with existing ordinances relative to zones of protection around trees.

VII. New Business

- a. Ordinance 2021-1284, allows Borough to fine tree vendors for illegally removing trees.
 - For illegal/questionable (if no permit is posted) tree removals on Saturdays, contact the Closter Police Department.
- b. Mayor's newsletter topic for next month: STC pruning program.
- c. Annual Accomplishment Report (due 2/15/22). Chair Abate will share a draft with the Commission.
- d. 558 High Street - property owner questioned why 2 trees *were* planted on their property when adjacent property received 1 tree. The adjacent property, on a corner lot, received 1 tree on each side of the property.

VIII. Inspection Requests

None received

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. Governing body - no report given
- b. Environmental Commission - no report given

X. Plans from Building Department. Review and comment

- a. 614 CDR
- b. 19 Farrington Ave.
- c. 185 CDR

XI. Adjournment: 8:49 p.m.

