



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 11, 2022

8:00 p.m.

[held remotely via Zoom]

1. Call to Order—Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm

2. Roll Call

Commission Members present:

Nils Abate, Chair

Todd Bradbury

Scott Devlin, Council Liaison

Miriam Lockhart, Env. Commission Liaison

Tsun Tam

Commissioners absent:

Anthony Lupardi, Sr.

George Paschalis, Secretary

Daniel Serata

3. Approval of Minutes

The June 13, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Open Meeting to Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

5. Correspondence

Commission members reviewed and discussed received/sent correspondence.

a) to/from Charles Panahi, 8 Sherman Avenue (location/type of shade tree)

6. Old Business

a) 2021 Tree Replacements

Trees that did not survive the 2021 planting season will be removed/replaced by the vendor (T.J. McCaffrey Landscaping). Advisory letters were sent out to homeowners in May.

- b) NJUCF Tree Inventory Progress
PlanIT Geo has inventoried 2,195 trees to date, largely in the western half of the Borough. If funding permits, country roads will be included in the inventory. Mr. Bradbury has provided feedback to the vendor regarding data collected thus far. Progress can be tracked online at: <https://pg-cloud.com/ClosterNJ/>.
- c) RFPs
Chairman Abate confirmed the Borough's QPA has no issue with issuing an RFP for both a fall and spring tree planting.
- d) 186 Harrington Avenue—unauthorized tree removals
The Building Department will be following up with the homeowner.
- e) STC webpage updates
The requested webpage updates have been made, including the STC-approved tree list.
- f) Watering of recently planted trees
Mr. Bradbury reported on his personal efforts to water the Commission's 2020 plantings, the trees at Ruckman Field, and the Arbor Day plantings at both schools. Ms. Lockhart made a motion for the Borough to request quotes for tree watering based on available funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Devlin and approved unanimously by the Commission members present.

Ms. Lockhart will reach out to the schools to remind them about their commitment to watering the trees.

7. New Business

- a) Status of Shade Tree Fund—discuss potential uses based on available funding
Commission members noted efforts are underway to determine the amount of funding available in the Borough's Shade Tree Fund. Mr. Bradbury noted these funds are essential to mitigating the substantial loss of tree canopy and should be used in addition to, not in lieu of, the Borough's normal management of the Right-of-Way. The Commission discussed special projects that could benefit from tapping the resources available in the Fund, including tree replacements in the downtown and additional plantings at the ballfields.
- b) Mayor's Newsletter
Members proposed "watering of trees" for the Commission's upcoming submission.
- c) Ms. Lockhart noted a shade tree at the corner of Legion and High Streets has been severely pruned. Mr. Bradbury noted the homeowner may have attempted to improve visibility. A "do not prune" letter will be sent to the homeowner.

8. Liaison Reports

- a) Governing Body—Mr. Devlin noted that the Commission's planned \$11,000 increase for planting was cut by the Council. The Commission's new planting appropriation has been reduced to \$15,000 plus whatever may be reallocated from the Shade Tree Fund. Mr. Devlin further noted a dedicated effort is underway at the Building Department to resolve all tree fines

that were not collected by the Borough.

- b) Environmental Commission—Ms. Lockhart noted the Borough will be pursuing Sustainable Jersey certification.

9. Meeting Adjournment