



# SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 10, 2023

8:00 p.m.

*[held remotely via Zoom]*

**1. Call to Order—Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm

**2. Roll Call**

*Commission Members present:*

Nils Abate, Chairman

Todd Bradbury

Scott Devlin, Councilman

George Paschalis, Secretary

Tsun Tam

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The March 13, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

**4. Open Meeting to Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

**5. Correspondence**

Mr. Paschalis reviewed incoming correspondence.

**6. Old Business**

**a) 2023 Arbor Day Poster Contest**

Mr. Paschalis reported on preparations underway for the Contest. Submissions are due April 17, judging will occur on April 19, and the winning boards will be printed and on display at Starbucks and the Library a week before Arbor Day.

**b) 2023 Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremonies**

Chairman Abate confirmed two white oaks were procured and will be planted in advance of Arbor Day. The ceremony at Tenakill School will be held at 1:00 p.m. followed by Hillside School at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Bradbury will confirm locations with Mr Chappelle.

c) Communication with Borough Hall

Chairman Abate noted the creation of email addresses for Commission members. Mr. Paschalis thanked Chairman Abate for designating him to communicate with Borough Hall on plan reviews. Following a discussion, and in keeping with Resolution 2023-01, Mr. Abate will further designate Mr. Bradbury to communicate with Borough Hall on tree inspections/removals and Mr. Paschalis on meeting minutes/agendas.

d) Dead Tree Removals

Mr. Paschalis noted that the tree removal RFP issued by the Borough on March 1, 2023 did not include the 13 dead street trees identified on November 28, 2022. Councilman Devlin will investigate.

e) Educational Opportunity

Mr. Bradbury noted Ms. Stewart may be able to conduct the training as early as the May 8 meeting.

f) Tree Inventory

A review is ongoing of the approximately forty dead trees identified in the inventory that are not specifically categorized (e.g. dead limbs, dead stumps).

g) Tree Inventory

A review is ongoing of the approximately forty dead trees identified in the inventory that are not specifically categorized (e.g. dead limbs, dead stumps).

Mr. Abate indicated that Borough Hall staff would no longer be maintaining the tree removal database. Mr. Paschalis noted a decentralized approach to tree removals was not in keeping with the Borough's previously stated concerns regarding tree removals. A discussion ensued as to how to best fill the void left by the reduction in staff support. Councilman Devlin and Chairman Abate will follow up with the Borough Administrator.

h) 186 Harrington Avenue

Chairman Abate will follow up with the Borough on this matter.

**7. New Business**

a) Shade Tree Budget Report--received.

b) Shade Tree Trust Fund Report—not received.

Mr. Paschalis noted that the Borough was waiting for a new finance hire to facilitate this report. Chairman Abate noted that the Treasurer was away and would be able to provide this report shortly.

c) Parks/Lustron House

Mr. Bradbury noted potential tree removals at High Street Park and the Lustron House.

d) Mayor's Newsletter

Mr. Paschalis will draft a submission announcing the "Trees Are Worth It" Poster Contest.

e) Tree Guards, Watering, Warranty

Mr. Bradbury shared his thoughts relative to the distribution and recycling of tree guards, the importance of watering, and warranty issues.

**8. Liaison Reports**

a) Governing Body

Councilman Devlin noted the topline budget numbers for the proposed municipal budget are \$77,000 (OE) and \$4,125 (Salary).

b) Environmental Commission—none

**9. Meeting Adjournment (9:22 p.m.)**