



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 9, 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, Chair

Todd Bradbury

Scott Devlin, Council Liaison

Miriam Lockhart, Env. Comm. Liaison

George Paschalis, Secretary

Daniel Serata

Tsun Tam

3. Election of Officers

Nils Abate and George Paschalis were unanimously approved as Chairman and Secretary, respectively.

4. Approval of Minutes

The December 12, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Open Meeting to Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

6. Continuing Education Presentation: *Urban Forest Rethink*

Commission members reviewed a 45-minute presentation sponsored by the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation.

7. Correspondence

Commission members discussed received/sent correspondence, including 15 Naugle Street and 8 Willis Drive.

8. Old Business

a) Pruning along County Roads

Councilman Devlin reported that the Police Chief recommended a police escort if pruning would be undertaken on County roads. Councilman Devlin followed up with a request as to how we might mitigate costs (e.g. off-hours, etc). Mr. Bradbury noted that he and Mr. Paschalis walked the county roads in question (District #1) and it did not appear to be an extraordinary amount of pruning.

b) Dead tree removals

Chairman Abate confirmed that the contractor has completed the latest group of tree removals. Mr. Paschalis inquired if the dead trees noted in the November 28th removal list that are in proximity to power lines were also included. Chairman Abate could not confirm same. Mr. Paschalis will reach out to Mr. Winters to confirm.

Mr. Paschalis reminded the Commission the recently completed tree inventory identified an additional forty trees that are not specifically categorized (e.g. dead limbs, dead stumps) but include a “dead” reference. Mr. Serata noted he is reviewing this list.

c) Fall Tree Plantings

Mr. Bradbury reported the fall tree plantings are complete.

d) District 2 Pruning

Chairman Abate reported the tree vendor (Almstead) has yet to complete the pruning but hopes to be finished by the end of the week. Mr. Bradbury noted the scope of work was altered in the specifications before they were issued, leading to a miscommunication in the field.

e) Educational Opportunity for Commissioners/Public

Mr. Paschalis briefly presented the proposed write-up as previously discussed, which Mr. Abate will share with Borough Hall.

f) 2022 Annual Accomplishment Report (AAR)—due February 15th

Chairman Abate confirmed Ms. Weatherly will provide a draft of the AAR for Commission review in advance of the next meeting.

g) Borough email for Commission members

Chairman Abate noted email accounts for Mr. Paschalis and Mr. Bradbury are still pending. Mr. Devlin will follow up with Borough Hall.

h) Community Forestry Management Plan

Mr. Paschalis noted the Borough has an extra year to submit the Plan. Chairman Abate will check with Ms. Weatherly to see if the Commission’s comments to date have been incorporated in the RFP.

7. **New Business**

a) Shade Tree Fund Monthly Report—*received*

b) Shade Tree Trust Fund Report—*not received from the Borough*

c) Tree Inventory

Mr. Paschalis reminded members there are still outstanding trees to inventory, including the county streets and northern portions of districts 2 & 4. The Commission will request a quote from PlanIT Geo to determine the cost associated with this effort. Chairman Abate noted he will update the inventory to reflect removals and new plantings.

d) **Mayor's Newsletter**

Commission members agreed on a submission regarding the Commission's recently completed structural pruning. Ms. Lockhart noted the deadline is due the 25th of every month.

8. Liaison Reports

a) **Governing Body**—Councilman Devlin recapped his efforts relative to advancing pruning on county roads.

b) **Environmental Commission**—Ms. Lockhart reported that the Environmental Commission has a new representative from the Planning Board.

9. Meeting Adjournment (9:36 p.m.)



RESOLUTION #2023-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER
APPOINTING CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Shade Tree Commission of the Borough of Closter that the following individuals be and hereby are appointed as officers of the Shade Tree Commission for calendar year 2023 and until his/her respective successor is duly elected and qualified.

Nils Abate, Chairperson

(Motion by Mr. Paschalis, seconded by Mr. Serata, unanimously passed)

George Paschalis, Secretary

(Motion by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Tsun, unanimously passed)