



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 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

Miriam Lockhart

Scott Devlin, Councilman

George Paschalis, Secretary

Dan Serata

Tsun Tam

3. Approval of Minutes

The May 8, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Tam).

4. Open Meeting to Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Abate and Mr. Paschalis reviewed incoming correspondence with members.

6. Old Business

a) Trees for Schools grant program

Mr. Paschalis reported on progress to date. The Closter School District has agreed to submit a tree application on the Closter community's behalf. Mr. Paschalis will be meeting with Mr. Oettinger, Closter's Recreation Director, to review a potential site between the 9/11 Memorial and Memorial Field. The grant application must be submitted by July 13.

b) Completing Tree Inventory/Dead Tree Removals

Chairman Abate reported on his progress inventorying outstanding trees.

Ms. Lockhart inquired as to the status of a dead tree at 483 Durie Avenue. Mr. Paschalis will investigate on behalf of the Commission.

c) Tree Removal Tracking/Work Orders

Mr. Bradbury recapped a follow-up call with PlanIT Geo regarding using TreePlotter to track removals and work orders.

d) Tree Removals (11/22)

Mr. Paschalis reminded members a list of dead trees identified in November of last year still has not been attended to. A discussion ensued. Chairman Abate suggested these trees should be included in the Commission's next tree removal activity. Councilman Devlin apprised members that the Borough recently joined a purchasing cooperative.

7. New Business

a) Trees at Ruckman Field Playground

Mr. Winters has requested the Commission's assistance in selecting trees for the playground. Mr. Bradbury discussed appropriate options for the site. Chairman Abate will respond.

b) NJDA 2023 Spotted Lanternfly Control Treatment Reimbursement Program

Mr. Winters requested the Commission's opinion on this state program. Members noted various sites that could potentially benefit from this treatment, beyond the Borough's right-of-way (e.g. the Borough's parks, municipal lots and private property). Ms. Lockhart requested that Councilman Devlin share this request with the Environmental Commission.

Chairman Abate suggested a united effort from all relevant Borough entities to help build consensus and identify a comprehensive list of sites. The Chairman will update the Borough accordingly.

c) Tree watering

Mr. Bradbury reported on his personal efforts to water recent plantings, as well as news of the DPW's recent acquisition of a water truck and their active participation in watering.

A motion was made by Mr. Bradbury—and seconded by Mr. Paschalis—to buy up to \$1,000 worth of 20 gallon, slow-release tree watering bags. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Abate will take the necessary next steps to purchase.

d) Mayor's Newsletter

Members discussed focusing the Commission's next submission on watering and recruitment. Chairman Abate will follow up as needed.

8. Reports

a) Shade Tree Budget Report—*received*

b) Shade Tree Trust Fund Report—Councilman Devlin reported that the Fund has not had any recent deposits. Mr. Paschalis was under the impression that the Building Department had at least one applicant who elected to pay in lieu of planting trees this year; he will follow up with the Building Department.

c) Governing Body—Councilman Devlin confirmed the Shade Tree Commission's budget at \$77,000.

- d) Environmental Commission— Councilman Devlin noted the Environmental Commission did not meet this past month.

9. Inspections/Plan Reviews

Members discussed various reviews.

10. Meeting Adjournment (approximately 9:20 p.m.)

Chairman Abate noted he will not attend the July meeting. Mr. Paschalis will chair in his absence.