



# SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## Reorganization Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024

7:30 p.m.

*[held remotely via Zoom]*

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

**2. Roll Call**

*Commission Members present:*

Nils Abate, Chairman

Todd Bradbury

Miriam Lockhart

Anna Maroules, Councilwoman

George Paschalis, Secretary

Dan Serata

Tsun Tam

**3. Election of Officers**

A motion was made by Mr. Paschalis, seconded by Mr. Serata, to nominate Nils Abate as Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Tam, to nominate George Paschalis as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Serata, to approve the December 11, 2023 minutes. All members present—save for Chairman Abate, who abstained—voted in the affirmative.

**4. Open Meeting to Public Comment**

**5. Correspondence**

Mr. Paschalis highlighted the various communications sent to the Commission, including the NJ Shade Tree Federation and Trees for Schools Grantor. Mr. Paschalis noted the Commission's letter to the homeowners at 95 Forest Street was sent on December 12, 2023.

**6. Old Business**

a) Finalizing draft RFP: Community Forestry Management Plan Update

Mr. Paschalis reviewed recent edits to the Request for Proposals (RFP) with members. Ms. Lockhart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paschalis, to accept the edits and release the RFP to the Borough for posting. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Trees for Schools Grant

Mr. Paschalis noted he and Mr. Bradbury will be responding to grantor questions.

c) Personnel Manuals/Handbooks

Mr. Paschalis reminded members to complete the information questionnaire on the Borough website.

d) District 1 Pruning

Mr. Bradbury reported on the successful pruning of District 1 street trees.

**7. New Business**

a) Tree of Heaven & Spotted Lanternfly

Members discussed the grant monies available to Borough for chemical spraying.

b) Unauthorized pruning, 395 High Street

Mr. Paschalis will arrange for Borough Hall to mail a notice to the homeowner. Members reviewed the budgetary challenge of including the pruning of county road street trees.

c) Tree Plotter Updates

Mr. Bradbury noted his efforts to document the Commission's plantings over the last fifteen years.

d) Tree tags/tree guards/hardware removal

Mr. Bradbury talked to the importance of deer guards. Ms. Lockhart will work with Mr. Bradbury on handwriting and installing tree tags.

e) Mayor's Newsletter

Mr. Paschalis will work with Ms. Lockhart on preparing an abridged version of the 2023 Digest for next month's submission. A motion was made by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Tsun, to prepare additional copies of the 2023 Digest for the administration and council. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Reports**

a) Shade Tree Budget Report—*provided by Borough Hall*

b) Shade Tree Trust Fund Report—*not provided by Borough Hall*

**9. Plan Reviews/Inspections**

Members discussed various plan reviews and inspections.

**10. Meeting Adjournment** (approximately 8:55 p.m.)



# SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## RESOLUTION #2024-01

### RESOLUTION OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER APPOINTING CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Shade Tree Commission of the Borough of Closter that the following individuals be and hereby are elected as officers of the Shade Tree Commission for calendar year 2024 and until his/her respective successor is duly elected and qualified.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Nils Abate** \_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson

*(Motion by Mr. Paschalis, seconded by Mr. Serata)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **George Paschalis** \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

*(Motion by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Tam)*