

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
March 15, 2016 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Patrick Carroll called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Shade Tree to order at 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Patrick Carroll (Chrmn.)	X	
John Barton		X
Fran Drew	X	
Colleen Truppo		X
Thomas E. Boyle		X
Kenneth Fekete		X
Christopher Jadro	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Tony Torello		X
Council Member James Collander	X	

Public Comment

Jeff Foucher, 32 North Hillside Ave., noted that he had appeared before the Shade Tree Commission on July 21st and had discussed the 100-year-old pin oak tree at his curb. Mr. Foucher was concerned about the condition of this aging tree. He and his family appreciated the shade of this tree; however, a 20 ft. limb had recently come down, not during stormy weather. Mr. Foucher was concerned the whole tree may eventually crash down.

Mrs. Drew said she had visited the tree, which is exceedingly tall. Perhaps, if a certified tree expert confirms that this pin oak is healthy, some pruning could be done.

Chrmn. Carroll suggested that someone, outside of the DPW, who could gain access to the top of the tree, could inspect the tree, starting at the top, and also inspect the existing cavity. Chrmn. Carroll said at the next Shade Tree meeting, after the inspection was made, the Commission can decide whether or not to have the tree taken down. He asked Mr. Foucher if he would accept this plan.

Mr. Foucher agreed to that plan.

Chrmn. Carroll said once an assessment is made on the tree's condition from the top on down, and the cavity, a copy of the report will be sent to Mr. Foucher. Chrmn. Carroll will touch base with Tony Torello, Director of the DPW, to find a qualified inspector for this job. Chrmn. Carroll and Mr. Foucher will keep in touch concerning this inspection. This matter will be re-visited at the next meeting.

On other matters, Brian Alexis, of Minton Ave., reported that when he's been driving his wife to the station in the morning he's notice a large branch hanging over the road. It looks like some of the branch has already broken off and fallen. The branch belongs to a tree in front of 5 Red Road. Chrmn. Carroll will ask Mr. Torello, of the DPW, to have someone, in the bucket truck, take a look at the branch. Some serious pruning may be needed.

Resolution #16-05

The Commission approved the meeting minutes for the January 19, 2016 Shade Tree Commission meeting.

Liaison Reports

Borough Council Update

Council Member Collander reported that he had some meetings with the Budget Committee. He had stressed to the Budget Committee that the expenses specified by the Shade Tree Commission (STC) are very necessary. At the Borough Council meeting last night, it was discovered that the STC had the largest expenses for both Mandatory and Discretionary. Council Member Collander said he had to answer hard questioning from the Budget Committee on these expenses. He felt that the \$8,000 designated for Ash Tree removal would not be enough.

Council Member reported that ultimately the STC Budget did not get cut. In the end, the Borough Council approved the STC Budget.

Council Member Collander asked how is the information cycle going to work.

In answer, Mrs. Drew showed a card that helps get information out to Manasquan NJ voters. These cards were an excellent way to alert local households on current issues and expenditures. Mrs. Drew distributed a draft of such a card to Commissioners, explaining the Emerald Ash Borer disease, and what treatments could be used.

In relation to that, Chrmn. Carroll reviewed the three quotes that Mr. Torello had received to treat the approximately 95 local trees including the Ash Borer trees on Rowan Road. Commissioners felt Honor Tree Service, from Madison, would be the best choice.

Mrs. Drew reviewed the different properties and how much the postage would cost to mail them voter information cards. She noted the quote that she had received from Chatham Print, on Center Street, to print, address and mail out the cards. It would cost \$1100 to alert everyone in the Borough with these cards. Chatham Print informed Mrs. Drew that they could send out the cards at a very fast level. Mrs. Drew asked the Commissioners to decide if they wanted to go ahead with this mailing.

Chrmn. Carroll asked Council Member Collander if the Borough Council would be receptive to the STC hitting every household in town with this mailing.

Mrs. Drew recalled at an earlier Borough Council meeting, after she had given a presentation, she had been asked to make sure letters were sent out to each residence.

Council Member Collander noted that the Borough Council had wondered how everyone in the Borough would be contacted. This card mailing would be an effective way of reaching out to everyone. It seems many residents aren't aware of what an ash tree looks like.

Mrs. Drew said that more information, including pictures of the Emerald Ash Borer, will be put on the Borough website. A line drawing of an ash tree leaf could be given. Chrmn. Carroll said the residents should be made aware of the costs to treat ash borer, and the removal of a diseased tree.

Mrs. Drew asked the Commissioners and Council Member Collander to e-mail any revisions they want on the draft card, between now and Monday. Chrmn. Carroll suggested the card could direct residents to the Borough website for further information.

A motion was made/seconded to authorize up to \$1200 for this mailer card. All Commissioners present voted in favor. Mrs. Drew will touch base with each Commissioner and work on the final draft. The card will be mailed out at the end of the month.

Regarding the treatment of diseased ash trees, Ms. Chmura stated that the best time to do it is not during May through June. The best time for treatment is during fall and winter, which will reduce the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insects.

Mrs. Drew asked if the industrial properties should be sent these information cards. Commissioners and Council Member Collander answered yes.

Chrmn. Carroll suggested that a vote be taken now on the amount to spend on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

A motion was made/seconded to dedicating \$21,600 to the treatment of the EAB through Honor Tree Service at \$7.25 per inch. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Ms. Chmura asked whether the STC has reported to the Department of Agriculture that the EAB is in our county? It's not showing up on the Dept.'s national map. After further discussion, Ms. Chmura volunteered to reach out to the Dept. of Agriculture.

Arbor Day Events

Mr. Jadro and Rosanne Maraziti had been working on a presentation to the 4th Grade, at Washington Ave. School. Mrs. Maraziti was informed that the students will be taking tests the week of Arbor Day. Mr. Jadro then asked the school if the presentation could be given the following week. Communications from the school were not encouraging. He asked Commissioners where to go from here. Mrs. Drew offered to contact one of the teachers, Christine Grobert, who could talk to the principal at Washington Ave. School. Mr. Carroll said, as another option his son's Pre-K at Milton Ave. School would probably be glad to hear a tree-related story read to them.

Chrmn. Carroll asked Council Member Collander if the Borough Council could schedule and vote on a resolution honoring Arbor Day (April 22nd). Council Member Collander will speak with Borough Administrator Bob Falzarano about putting the resolution on a future Borough Council Agenda.

Continuing Education

In Mr. Fekete's absence, Chrmn. Carroll reported that Mrs. Drew and Ms. Chmura have earned three credits. He pointed out that one class has to be taken in person. He'll find more information on this class. Mrs. Drew said she was thinking of

attending the Federal Shade Tree Convention in mid-October. Chrmn. Carroll noted that particular attendance would bring in the needed credits.

Five Year Plan Status

Council Member Collander and Chrmn. Carroll reported that the Borough Council has passed a resolution recommending the adoption of the prepared Third 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan.

Annual Report Status

Chrmn. Carroll reviewed what materials that Mr. Barton needs to finish the Commission's Annual Report.

New Business

Spring Planting

Chrmn. Carroll reported that additional residents have contacted him for trees to plant. He noted that last year the plantings costed \$8,000. Chrmn. Carroll asked if the Commission would consider \$10,000 for him to work with for the spring plantings. An effort could then be made to have a number of the trees in the ground by the next STC meeting.

A motion was made/seconded to approve \$10,000 in their budget for the 2016 Spring Plantings. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Chrmn. Carroll said he would like to walk Rowan Rd. and Weston Ave., possibly with resident Bruce Ferguson, where many of the ash trees are located. Backfill and plantings will be done.

Scarlet Oak Acorn Harvest

Chrmn. Carroll noted that a number of people have asked him for clippings or acorns of the Scarlet Oak on Lum Ave. field. They would like to plant the Scarlet Oak's "offspring" around town.

Ms. Chmura and Mrs. Drew offered to try sprouting the Scarlet Oak's acorns in cups.

Attendance Provision

Chrmn. Carroll will consult with Robin Kline, the Borough Clerk, on the correct procedure to handle this matter.

The Second Sidewalk on Lafayette Avenue

Mrs. Drew recalled that the Chatham Township Engineer had stated to the Township Committee that Lafayette Ave. was a connector road which needed two sidewalks. One on each side. Mrs. Drew had then asked the engineer for a sighting. She received the sighting after 3 months. After reading the entire sighting, Mrs. Drew stated that there is nothing in the report stating that two sidewalks were necessary in this situation.

After finding this inaccuracy, Mrs. Drew then held a meeting with then Committee Member Sullivan, Township Administrator Ciccarone, and the Township Engineer. She informed them of that the sidewalk claim that they had given, was not there.

Related to this, Mrs. Drew reported that some Township officials were recently standing where this proposed sidewalk would be put in. She pointed out to them that two Borough trees were growing in the vicinity of the proposed Lafayette Ave. crosswalk. They cannot be taken down. Mrs. Drew then suggested to the officials to limit their sidewalk accordingly. She suggested that the Commission write an official letter to the Township informing them that those trees can't be removed.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Carroll suggested the Commission find out the situation on these trees from Borough Administrator Falzarano. Chrmn. Carroll said he will also contact some of the Township Committee members about this matter.

New BPU Regulations

Mrs. Drew reported that BPU has made new regulations concerning tree trimming. Branches over the lock-out zone (higher voltage) can be trimmed down to the stem. This may be in part due to Hurricane Sandy and other recent serious storms experienced by New Jersey. Mrs. Drew stated that she has sent a certified letters to BPU about this matter. Mrs. Drew had recommended to both BPU and JCP & L to put their wires underground. She reviewed what the expenses would be for homeowners to have their wires underground. Mrs. Drew will be giving a presentation at the Shade Tree Federation Convention urging that pressure be put on BPU to install their wires underground, at least for the lock-out zones.

Council Member Collander commented that the trees on Vincent Street, near his home, have been seriously butchered over time by the utility companies. They may not even survive.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Chmura asked who was responsible for the little trees planted by the Chatham Middle School. Chrmn. Carroll answered that the Borough is responsible for the trees planted in the first ten feet.

Chrmn. Carroll passed around a spreadsheet of the local ash trees being treated for Emerald Ash Borer. Ms. Chmura and Mrs. Drew will draft a letter from the Shade Tree Commission to alert the residents as to when their ash trees will be treated.

At 8:50 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary