

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
July 22, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Chairman Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. This was a virtual meeting. All Commissioners and the Recording Secretary were present by way of Zoom.

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X	
Kristy Chmura, Vice Chrmn.	X	
Fran Drew		X
George Sweetin		X
Dean Wilson		X
John Tortorella	X	
Patrick Florentino	X	
Beverly Klepper		X
Council Member Karen Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

A legal quorum of members was not present.

Chrmn. Truppo read aloud the Mission Statement of the Shade Tree Commission.

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 27, 2021 and June 24, 2021 meetings could not be voted on tonight because a quorum was not present. They will be reviewed and voted on at a future meeting.

Discussion Items

Windshield Survey

Chrmn. Truppo noted that Chatham Borough is due for a Windshield Survey. She explained that John Linson, the town arborist, drives around on Borough streets and makes an itemized list of local trees, taking special note of which trees may need trimming or which trees may be hazardous. Mr. Linson then shares this list with the Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Commission. This list helps the DPW when they need to prioritize work projects to be done around town. Mr. Linson has a fee of \$2,000 for this project.

Commissioners present at the meeting had no problems with Mr. Linson's proposed fee.

Chrmn. Truppo will then initial the purchase order for this project. She believed it will probably be undertaken between now and September.

2021 Fall Plantings

Chrmn. Truppo reported that Mr. Sweetin has offered to help DPW with finding the right trees and the best locations to plant them. She will get a list of the tree requests to take to Hall's Nursery in Berkeley Heights. The plantings will take place later in the fall.

Chrmn. Truppo and Ms. Holler will compare Tree Request lists to make sure every e-mail tree requester is on the plantings list for the fall.

Also, Chrmn. Truppo will reply to a resident Colleen Grant's letter asking if she could donate a tree in memory of her late neighbor, Rich Riordan. Chrmn. Truppo will send Mrs. Grant the correct Borough form to donate a memorial tree.

Returning to the Fall Plantings, Vice Chrmn. Chmura suggested a letter be sent to residents reminding them that they can't choose the species of the trees that will be planted. Chrmn. Truppo recalled Mr. Torello was give such letters to give to future tree recipients, however, the letter should be sent at an early time than last year. Some residents had decided last year that they did not want a tree after all.

Council Member Koronkiewicz offered to bring up this subject at a Council Meeting.

Council Member Koronkiewicz reported that a tree is currently blocking the stop sign at the corner of Weston Ave. and Coleman Ave., going west. She believed it was a tree that the Commission may have recently planted. Chrmn. Truppo offered to mention this situation to Mr. Torello. Perhaps the DPW could trim the tree back some.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura observed that a number of new trees have been planted on Main Street in Madison. She questioned why Madison is allowed to plant trees on their Main Street, which is a Morris County road, and Chatham Borough is not allowed to put in plantings on their Main Street.

In relation to this, Chrmn. Truppo discussed the recent joint meeting she had attended with representatives of neighboring Shade Tree Commissions from Summit, Madison, and Morristown. She agreed with Vice Chrmn. Chmura's point that Madison does have more recent trees planted. Vice Chrmn. Chmura suggested that the STC reach out to the County Shade Tree Representative, who had attended a recent STC meeting, and ask if it would be okay to plant any extra trees from the fall plantings onto Chatham Borough's Main Street. Council Member Koronkiewicz found a phone number for the Morris County website which may prove helpful in getting an answer to this inquiry. Vice Chrmn. Chmura will make the phone call to this County Department to see if permission could be obtained for these Main Street plantings, if the STC's budget allows it.

Summer STC Meetings

Chrmn. Truppo asked Commissioners how they felt about cancelling the August 26, 2021 meeting. The Commissioners had no objections. Ms. Holler will notify the Borough Clerk about this cancellation as well as Melanie Politi who can note the cancellation on the Borough website.

Chrmn. Truppo noted Vice Chrmn. Chmura had asked when in-person meetings will be held again at Borough Hall. Chrmn. Truppo suggested the Commission wait and see how the Borough officials feel about regular open meetings in September.

CEU updates

Chrmn. Truppo asked Commissioners if they could take at least one or two courses in the remainder of this year, it would help. These courses are still virtual; however, are required to be watched live.

At 8:15 p.m. the gathering dispersed.

The August 26, 2021 Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be cancelled.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary