

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
June 23, 2022 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. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting. This was an in person meeting held in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

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

A legal quorum was present. Chrmn. Truppo brought a home-baked blueberry pie.

Chrmn. Truppo read aloud the STC Mission Statement

Public Comment

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sweetin made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 STC meeting with an amendment made by Mr. Tortorella. Vice Chrmn. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The May 26, 2022 STC minutes were approved as amended.

Mr. Tortorella made a motion to approve the January 27, 2022 STC minutes as submitted. Mr. Sweetin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The January 27, 2022 STC minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Sweetin made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022 as submitted. Chrmn. Truppo seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The February 24, 2022 STC minutes were approved as submitted.

The March 24, 2022 STC meeting minutes will be reviewed at a later date.

Discussion Items

Report from the Fishawack Festival on 6/11

Chrmn. Truppo reported that the Commission gave out a number of their insulated tote bags at their table. A good response of visitors came to the STC table. The Commission also raffled off a \$150 gift card from The Farm in Green Village. A winning name was pulled from the raffle: Nadine Rogalla of Pihlman Place. Vice Chrmn. Chmura notified Ms. Rogalla that she had won this gift certificate. Chrmn. Truppo will be dropping off the certificate to her.

Girl Scout Gold Award

Chrmn. Truppo reported that a local Girl Scout recently consulted with her and Mr. Sweetin on her proposed tree-related project. Chrmn. Truppo and Mr. Sweetin had suggested a project to help raise a public awareness for local trees, placards or QR codes that could be set up for the more historic trees giving their story and species info. The Scout was interested; however, she still has to submit an application explaining this project to the Girl Scouts Association.

Chrmn. Truppo reported on a recent meeting held with neighboring Shade Tree Commissions held at the home of the home of a Morristown Shade Tree Commissioner. Area Commissioners shared news on what activities their particular Commission is doing.

Chrmn. Truppo gave an update on Drew University's Save the Forest movement. Joe Basralian, who is very involved in this activity, has alerted Chrmn. Truppo to a project that has been offered in the State of New Jersey, called the New Jersey State Task Force. Chrmn. Truppo felt it would be a great opportunity for Commissioners to participate in this Task Force, and to share news with other Shade Tree Commissions. There also may be grant opportunities.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo announced that a young student, Margot Vallet-Sandre, was the winner of the Shade Tree Commission's Arbor Day Contest. Ms. Vallet-Sandre was recognized at a recent Borough Council Meeting and received

her prize, a gift certificate for Jabberwocky's toy store. Her winning poster will be on display.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that the Chatham Jaycees held their recent Annual Awards ceremony on June 9th. The Jaycees kindly donated \$5,000 to the Shade Tree Commission. This donation will go into the Commission's Rider Account. If the Commission doesn't use this amount this current year, it can still do so in the next year.

Core Training

Chrmn. Truppo distributed information on an upcoming Core training for Commissioners who have not yet taken this important class. The class is 4 hours long and is offered multiple times a year.

Chrmn. Truppo made a motion that all Chatham Shade Tree Commissioners be required to take the Core training course. Mr. Sweetin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo brought up that some local Shade Tree Commissions assign each of their Commissioners to a specific ward or neighborhood in a town or city to keep an eye on the tree situation. She suggested that each of the Chatham Commissioners be assigned a neighborhood(s) to answer any tree concerns or issues. Also, Commissioners discussed holding a "walk through" of neighborhoods in the Borough to take a look at the town trees. Commissioners could take notes of the Borough trees that seem to be having problems.

Mr. Sweetin pointed out that a "walk-through" would also show local residents that the Shade Tree Commission is definitely present in the community and taking genuine interest and action on local trees. Mr. Sweetin pointed out that the Shade Tree Commission should provide an incentive to plant more trees and to take care of the trees that are planted, but are in danger of being damaged by new construction. He has seen this happen.

Commissioners discussed the most effective way to do a walk-through. To help with this, Mr. Sweetin suggested he and the Commissioners take a walk-through the wooded area of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. He will cover up the label of each tree and Commissioners can try and identify the species and any problems the tree may have.

Commissioners agreed that this walk-through should be done altogether as a group. Mr. Tortorella suggested Commissioners carry a check-list when they take their walk. Mr. Wilson pointed out that there are some blank spots in town which could use some trees. Perhaps a windshield survey could be done to get a handle on these blank areas. A copy of a tax map could be obtained. A Commissioner(s) could then circle where a tree could be planted.

Mr. Sweetin pointed out if a member of the public asks what Commissioners are doing on their walk-through, it would be a good chance to explain this is one of the projects undertaken by the STC to show their dedication to observing and caring about our local trees.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura made a motion for the Shade Tree Commission to complete their Borough tree walk-through by Summer 2023. Mrs. Klepper seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Mrs. Klepper suggested that Commissioners put the date and time of the walk-through on their cell phones. Commissioners decided on Thursday, June 30th, 6:30 p.m. for their walk-through. They will meet and begin the walk-through at Ken Chmura's memorial tree at Garden Park. Commissioners will carry check-lists as suggested by Mr. Tortorella.

STC Representation on Borough Boards

Chrmn. Truppo asked Council Member Koronkiewicz how she felt about the Shade Tree Commission being represented on the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment. She pointed out that the Shade Tree Commission seldom sees any proposed building plans reviewed by these Boards.

Council Member Koronkiewicz suggested she and Chrmn. Truppo meet with Borough Administrator Steve Williams and Borough Engineer Joe Venezia about having STC representatives on these Boards. Mr. Sweetin pointed out that the Shade Tree will not be "flexing their muscles" by reviewing plans, the STC is just enforcing their mission to protect and preserve trees.

Chrmn. Truppo will email Mr. Venezia and Mr. Williams about the STC having more participation with reviewing tree proposals in building/demolition plans.

Related to this topic, Chrmn. Truppo brought up the possibility of having little packets of tree information to give to new Borough residents. A copy of the tree ordinance could be included, as well as info on tree permits, STC's tree planting

program, etc. These packets could be given to realtors to give to new homeowners in the Borough. Council Member Koronkiewicz noted that she may have a list of new residents moving into the Borough.

At 8:45 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Minutes Clerk