

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
July 28, 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. in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. She announced that all legal notices had been made for this meeting.

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo	X	
Kristy Chmura	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	

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

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The following were approved by the Commission as submitted:

The April 28, 2022 meeting minutes

The June 23, 2022 meeting minutes with two corrections made

Discussion Items

Chrmn. Truppo reported that she has been in touch with a local Girl Scout who is working on her Gold Award. As reported at last month's STC meeting, this Scout will be submitting her tree-related proposal to the Girl Scouts Association. This Scout is also interested in doing a tree inventory in the Borough. The inventory

would include the species of the Borough trees, their health status, any trimming recommendations, etc.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo reported that the Commission has started its Tree Walks Program. The STC has completed their Tree Walk/Inventory on Garden Avenue. Commissioners reviewed the conditions of local trees on these Walks. It is hoped that all the Walks/Inventories will be completed by next summer. Chrmn. Truppo suggested that Commissioners could consider taking these Walks every other Thursday for the remainder of the summer, on through to Labor Day.

Commissioners discussed possible available dates in September for Tree Walks. They decided on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. They will meet at the top of Van Doren Avenue, close to that Main Street intersention. The public is welcome to participate in these Tree Walks.

Chrmn. Truppo and Commissioners discussed the tree info packets they would like to give out to new residents in the Borough. Council Member Koronkiewicz said she would obtain the list of new residents from the Borough tax office.

Ms. Truppo reported that Ms. Rogalla of Pihlman Place has received the gift card she had won on Fishawack Day.

Chrmn. Truppo and the Commission discussed a recent email from a Center Avenue resident who was very unhappy about her Borough tree, a sweet gumball tree. This resident had recently emailed the STC telling them the tree was unsafe. She also disliked the many gumballs falling on her property. Both the Public Works Dept. and Mr. Sweetin had inspected the tree and deemed it was healthy. Mr. Sweetin noted that there were some dead limbs on this tree. The tree could use some trimming, otherwise it was fine. The resident had been invited to the STC meeting tonight to discuss this matter. She had a conflict and will try and attend next month's meeting.

Commissioners discussed the type of truck and equipment that would be needed for trimming trees in situations like this. Sometimes an outside tree trimming business will be called on to trim certain Borough trees. In the future, Commissioners will talk with Mr. Torello, Director of Public Works, to see what type of tree trimming truck equipment would be good for the Borough.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo reminded Commissioners, if they haven't already, to try and complete their CORE training in a year's time. She mentioned

the entities who offered this training. Chrmn. Truppo will forward the CORE link to Ms. Holler to include in the minutes. (Please see the attached from Rutgers)

Mr. Sweetin brought up the recent Tree Federation meeting. The Federation hopes to meet once a month. Chrmn. Truppo noted it was nice to meet Commissioners from other towns at these meetings.

Commissioners discussed the Tree Planting program for the fall. Chrmn. Truppo reported that a list of homeowner tree requests has been kept by Ms. Holler in the Borough Clerk's Office. The planting locations still need to be finalized. \$5,000 is available for these plantings. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the Commission should think about picking out which nursery to purchase the trees from.

Ms. Holler will send Chrmn. Truppo the tree requests for 2022. They are still coming in.

Council Member Koronkiewicz suggested that the STC use the recently awarded Kiwanis money to plant trees in the Memorial Park area leading into North Hillside Avenue.

Ms. Holler asked how Commissioners felt about homeowners asking for tree plantings to be installed on their private property, not in a Borough right-of-way. Mr. Sweetin recommended, in this situation, that a legal document be established noting that this tree planting on private property. Any future owners of the property could then be made aware that a Borough tree exists on their land. It should be noted on the property survey.

At 8:14 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary

