

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
 September 22, 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, Chatham Municipal Building. Chrmn. Truppo stated that all legal notices have been posted 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 STC Mission Statement.

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The Commissioners approved the following meeting minutes as amended:

July 28, 2022

August 25, 2022

Tree Plantings Program – Fall, 2022

Chrmn. Truppo noted that she has received all the Tree Request Forms that had been submitted to the Borough Clerk’s Office. Chrmn. Truppo is in touch with Leo Pietrantuano at DPW about the latest developments for this project. She will notify STC members when the planting date has been decided on.

Chrmn. Truppo brought up the Google sheet , giving the data obtained from the recent Tree Walks. This data gives Commissioners some idea of any potential planting locations. However, top priority will be given to local homeowners who have submitted their Tree Requests to the Borough.

Chrmn. Truppo and Ms. Holler discussed a possible cut-off date for receiving further Tree Request Forms. Perhaps the end of September could be the final deadline; however, the requests

will still be received by the Borough, acknowledged, and then will be the first ones in line for the 2023 Tree Plantings.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the tree plantings are delivered to the Public Works complex and are kept in the DPW yard until the planting date arrives.

Mr. Tortorella confirmed with Chrmn. Truppo that homeowners receive instructions on the care and feeding of their young tree plantings when they are delivered and planted.

Related to this topic, Commissioners discussed how the recent generous gift from the Jaycees could be used in planting new trees. Mr. Sweetin suggested the “dead zone” in Memorial Park, behind No. Hillside Ave., could use some tree plantings. Also, there are empty spaces on local school properties that would be excellent for tree plantings.

Scout Projects

Chrmn. Truppo reported that the interested Girl Scout has not yet submitted her proposals for her Golden Award.

Commissioners felt a possible Eagle Scout project would be to have the Scout do clean-up and assessment work of former tree plantings done at Shepard Kollock Park. Not all of the tree plantings were successful. The Scout could do an assessment on what has to be removed. Another Eagle Scout Project would be to create a self-guiding tour, visiting and learning about the trees of downtown Chatham.

Council Member Koronkiewicz noted that she will be meeting with a Scout to discuss a possible tree walk designed for senior citizens.

Council Member Koronkiewicz reminded Commissioners that Scouts have to make a formal presentation to the Mayor and Borough Council, giving the details of their proposed Eagle Scout or Golden Award.

Shade Tree Federation Conference

This year’s Conference will be held on October 13 & 14 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Cherry Hill NJ. Core Training will be available at the conference on October 13th. Mr. Sweetin distributed the schedule and application for the Conference.

Future Tree Walks

Commissioners discussed possible dates for their next Tree Walk in the Borough. Mr. Sweetin suggested Commissioners decide on possible tree plantings on Van Doren Ave. and Rowan Road. Commissioners decided on Sunday, September 25th for the Tree Walk. Mr. Sweetin will decide on the time to meet.

Related to the Tree Planting program, Commissioners discussed the possible legal document(s) that would be needed when the STC gives a tree planting to a homeowner who wants it for their private property.

Tree situations in Planning Bd./Zoning Bd. Applications

Chrmn. Truppo had sent an email to Borough Administrator Steve Williams explaining that the STC would like to meet with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. The STC has concerns about the status of existing trees and future trees in the applications before these Boards. The attorneys for these Boards should be asked to attend this meeting. Council Member Koronkiewicz will be present at this meeting.

Mr. Sweetin pointed out that both the developer and the homeowner could be seriously fined for illegally removing a trees on private property. He felt strongly that the regulations for tree removals should be strictly enforced. Private trees also need to be protected. Mr. Sweetin suggested that a STC representative be present at the Planning Board and Zoning Board hearings.

On other matters, Mr. Wilson asked if the Commission had given any thought to officially identifying the town's landmark trees.

Chrmn. Truppo agreed that would be a good project. Perhaps it could be a Scout project or the Shade Tree Commission could do it themselves.

At 8:32 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary