

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
 October 27, 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, Chrmn.	X	
Kristy Chmura, Vice Chair	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

Vice Chrmn. Chmura made a motion to approve the September 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Sweetin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of September 22, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Shade Tree Federation Conference - Update

Mrs. Klepper reported that she had completed her Core training at this event. She has submitted the necessary paperwork to the Borough to be reimbursed for the tuition.

Mr. Sweetin noted that there were a number of good speakers at the Conference. He had copies of “The Tree Owner’s Manual” to distribute to interested Commissioners. He also had obtained a brochure “Avoiding Tree Damage” (during construction). Mr. Sweetin will get additional copies for his fellow Commissioners.

Regarding the above brochure, Commissioners discussed the instances where they have seen trees in risky situations while building is going on. Mrs. Klepper suggested the Tree Damage brochure be given to homeowners/contractors when they obtain their construction permits.

Commissioners discussed the care that should be given to Ken Chmura’s memorial Dawn Redwood tree in Garden Park. Mr. Sweetin recommended that the tree’s water doughnut be removed. He also advised Vice Chrmn. Chmura to not over-water the tree.

Mr. Sweetin handed in to Chrmn. Truppo a copy of his personal check of what he had spent at the Shade Tree Federation Conference. He will be reimbursed by the Borough.

Tree Planting Program Update

Chrmn. Truppo reported that about 50 tree plantings have been dropped off at the DPW yard. Twenty of the trees have been planted so far. Mr. Sweetin pointed out that if the recent rainfall had not happened, the tree plantings would have died. He was very concerned about the delay in planting those young trees.

Chrmn. Truppo suggested that the STC should be thinking about their autumn tree plantings a year ahead of time. Perhaps more thought should be given to the species of these young trees, their planting locations, etc.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Truppo will reach out to Mr. Torello to inquire about the lateness of these tree plantings. Mr. Sweetin pointed out that the mark-outs had not been done yet.

Gift from the Jaycees

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the STC still has the Jaycee’s generous gift of \$5,000.

Commissioners discussed possible projects that could be done with this gift.

Mr. Sweetin suggested one of the projects could be a video showing the correct way to plant a tree. Also, some of the money could be set aside for Scout tree-related projects. Chrmn. Truppo brought up that extra trees could be planted using some of the gift money.

After further discussion, Mr. Sweetin made a motion for the STC to set aside \$1,500 of the Jaycee donation for Scout tree-related projects, to designate \$300 for each Scout if there was a need. Chrmn. Truppo seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Miscellaneous

Chrmn. Truppo gave an update of two impending Scout projects. She had recently met with a Scout interested in doing a clean-up at Shepard Kollock Park and creating a self-guiding tour of the park.

Chrmn. Truppo discussed a recent Zoom call where she and Mr. Sweetin met with Mayor Kobylarz, Borough Administrator Steve Williams, Council Member Koronkiewicz, and the Borough Attorney about the STC having better representation at Borough Zoning Bd. and Planning Bd. meetings. Chrmn. Truppo and Mr. Sweetin had pointed out to these Borough Officials that construction projects were going on in town where Borough trees were not being protected. The STC would like enforcement done regarding the proper care for these trees being impacted by construction work. Chrmn. Truppo had pointed out at the Zoom meeting, that the STC is looking at preserving the tree canopy in town.

Chrmn. Truppo felt the comments that she and Mr. Sweetin made to the Borough Officials were well received. She noted that Mayor Kobylarz had suggested that the STC should educate the public more on trees and the Commission's work towards preserving the town's tree canopy. Perhaps in the future, a STC presentation could be done at Council Meetings on a quarterly basis. Mr. Sweetin suggested a STC representative(s) attend a Borough Council Meeting. The STC could then be alerted to projects and issues that may impact Borough trees. For instance, the STC would want to know when new sidewalks and new curbing work are on the horizon.

On other matters, the STC discussed the pruning of trees by the JCP & L. Before taking action on Borough trees, JCP & L should be sending a notice to the Borough six months prior to their tree work. Mr. Sweetin pointed out that STC is on the JCP & L list of entities to sign off on this notification. He also explained why the Public Utilities have serious reasons to take down certain trees.

Commissioners pointed out that they just would like to be kept in the loop about this tree work.

Chrmn. Truppo reminded Commissioners that their Forestry Management Plan is due in 2025. Ms. Klepper offered to help with the Plan. She suggested a subcommittee be formed for this project. Legally, only 3 Commissioners can serve on a subcommittee.

On other topics, Mr. Sweetin reported that he attended the program “Fall in Love With Trees” offered by Summit. He earned 1 CEU for attending.

Mrs. Klepper pointed out that there are currently a number of grants available for tree projects. The STC could look into these grants in the near future.

The Commission decided to hold another Tree Walk in the Borough on November 20th at 1 p.m. Mr. Sweetin suggested Commissioners look for possible tree planting locations.

At 8:44 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary