

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
March 24, 2022

8 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	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	

A legal quorum was not present.

Chrmn. Truppo read aloud the STC Mission Statement.

Public Comment

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 27, 2022 and February 24, 2022 meetings could not be voted on tonight because a legal quorum was not present. The STC will try again with a vote at their April meeting.

Discussion Items

Girl Scouts Annual Day of Service – April 23, 2022

Chrmn. Truppo gave an update on the tree planting project which the Girl Scouts in Chatham will undertake on their Annual Day of Service. She and Mr. Sweetin recently met with Jessica Romeo. They also looked at potential tree planting sites. The Girls Scouts are only allowed to plant tree species native to New Jersey. The

original plans to order Blue Spruces had to be scrapped because they are not native to New Jersey. The Scouts will now be ordering Sugar Maples and Red Oaks. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the Scouts will be planting trees on the Coleman Avenue's traffic island; however, not as many as originally planned. Mr. Sweetin pointed out that three oak trees could be planted at the No. Hillside entrance to Memorial Park.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that Vice Chrmn. Chmura plans on updated the Arbor Day video flyer from last year. She recalled it was a contest for young people to film a short video talking about their favorite tree. Last year the Commission had difficulty promoting this contest. The schools and other town forums were approached, but unfortunately the response was not strong. This year the Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops will be notified of this contest.

On another matter, Chrmn. Truppo reported that she and Mr. Sweetin recently visited Garden Park in the Borough to check on the project there. It looks like the work is coming to completion there. Pavers have been put done. She and Mr. Sweetin believed they found a really nice location for a memorial for Ken Chmura, provided no one else has dibs on this spot. She and Mr. Sweetin discussed what species of tree could be planted at this memorial. They concluded one Dawn Redwood tree would be a good choice. Mr. Sweetin will check into Dawn Redwoods at one of his nurseries. Chrmn. Truppo said a planting/dedication date will be decided for perhaps late April.

Mr. Sweetin put one of his books on the Zoom screen: "Trees of New Jersey, In the Mid-Atlantic States. He explained that this is a good book to help identify trees. Just because a tree is not native to New Jersey, it could still be an excellent planting tree. Mr. Sweetin gave some examples.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that Mr. Sweetin will be a presenter at the Girl Scouts Day of Service, just before the Scouts do their planting. Mr. Sweetin will show the Scouts the correct way to plant trees. Chrmn. Truppo explained that this Day of Service is both a Township and Borough event, starting at the former Dixiedale Farm site on Hillside Avenue, Chatham Township, on April 23rd. Mr. Sweetin clarified that April 23rd will be the tree education date. April 27th is the actual tree planting day. April 30th will be the Rain Date. Mr. Sweetin will drop off a sample to Chrmn. Truppo showing the basics of planting and caring of trees. Chrmn. Truppo suggested a Shade Tree Commissioner be present at each planting site on the Day of Service to answer any questions and/or hand out information. Chrmn.

Truppo will text Ms. Romeo informing her that Mr. Sweetin has put together a planting guide.

Mrs. Klepper offered to help at the April 23rd planting date. Mr. Florentino will also volunteer on one of the days.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo reported that Bill Heap, of the Chatham Jaycees, has reached out to the STC asking that they, if interested, write a letter asking for one of the Jaycees' annual donations. These donations are given out at the Jaycees' Annual Awards Dinner. Chrmn. Truppo brought up, for a change, asking the Jaycees, in their fund request, to give them money to allow the Commission to plant a large specimen tree in the Borough for everyone to see. She asked Commissioners to forward any thoughts on this matter to her as soon as possible. The deadline isn't too far off. Mr. Sweetin suggested some locations in town to plant the tree. He felt a weeping Copper Beach would be a good choice. Commissioners discussed possible planting locations, specifically Memorial Park, near Scoops Ice Cream Parlor.

Mrs. Klepper suggested that in the STC's letter to the Jaycees, specify that the Commission wants to do some plantings by the Library. Commissioners agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Sweetin offered to work on this planting project. He felt that the residents would benefit from plantings in this Memorial Park location. Chrmn. Truppo said she will go ahead and send the request letter to the Jaycees.

Moving on to another topic, Mrs. Klepper asked about the STC hosting a table at the Fishawack Festival on June 11th.

Chrmn. Truppo felt it would be a good idea. The STC, in the past, sometimes shares a table with another organization, but they can do it solo. She suggested some free give-aways for their Fishawack table. Maybe the give-aways could be free re-usable bags promoting trees or the Shade Tree Commission. Mrs. Klepper suggested a give-away tree be offered at the table. Chrmn. Truppo asked Commissioners to email her know what hours they would be available to staff the table on that day.

Before adjourning, Mr. Sweetin asked the status of the dying trees on the traffic island on Coleman Avenue. Chrmn. Truppo will check with DPW on this situation. She will copy Mr. Sweetin on what she finds out.

At 8:17 p.m. the gathering dispersed.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary