

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
 December 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. Chrnm. Truppo stated that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrnm.	X	
Kristy Chmura, Vice Chrnm.	X	
Fran Drew		X
Dean Wilson		X
John Tortorella		X
Patrick Florentino		X
Beverly Klepper	X	
George Sweetin	X	
Karen Koronkiewicz	X – 7:45 p.m.	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also present:
 Val Clark, an interested resident.

Chrnm. Truppo read loud the STC Mission Statement.

Public Comment

Val Clark, 21 Fern Ave., reported that she had attended a recent Environmental Commission meeting. The Post Office Plaza plans had been brought up at the EC Commission. Referring to an aerial photo of the proposed plans, Ms. Clark claimed that the EC Commissioners were interested in the installation of solar paneling in the Plaza parking lot. She felt that a number of trees would have to be eliminated to do this installation. Ms. Clark just wanted to give the Shade Tree Commission a heads-up because she felt the Environmental Commission will probably not seek permission from the Shade Tree Commission for this tree removal.

Ms. Holler, who is also the Recording Secretary of the Environmental Comm. meeting, stated she was also at that EC meeting. There was only one EC Commissioner, who had made that suggestion, not the entire EC Commission. No formal decision had been made.

Ms. Clark agreed that the EC did not make a formal decision; however, she felt that the Environmental Commission was still in favor of this tree removal and solar paneling installation for the Plaza.

Mr. Sweetin suggested the STC inform the Environmental Commission that they have been made aware that this possible tree removal action was being considered.

The Commissioners accepted the plans that Ms. Clark had brought to the meeting. She gave Chrmn. Truppo her phone number. Chrmn. Truppo will reach out to the Chrmn. Robertson of the Environmental Commission and discuss this matter further.

Ms. Clark left the meeting.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2022 STC meeting could not be approved because a quorum was not present. The minutes will be re-visited at the January meeting.

Discussion Items

Chrmn. Truppo summed up what had transpired at the November 17th STC meeting with Mr. Shakhawala, the owner of 39 Washington Ave., and his need to remove a Borough tree. As a result, Mr. Shakhawala has since agreed to pay the compensatory re-planting fee of \$2500 if he was allowed to remove the existing maple tree, which has recently stopped construction of his new home.

Mr. Sweetin and Chrmn. Truppo discussed the Commission creating an ordinance that would address situations like this one with Mr. Shakhawala and his borough tree, where a compensatory re-planting fee could be included based on the value of the tree being removed.

Chrmn. Truppo stated at the next meeting she will bring the current STC-related ordinances to be discussed. Hopefully a vote can be taken to include a compensatory re-planting fee if a Borough tree seriously has to be removed. The fee money could be put into the STC's ryder account.

Commission Terms of Membership

Council Member Koronkiewicz and Commissioners reviewed which membership terms will be ending this month. They discussed the Alternate Membership situation on the Commission.

Commissioners discussed how many meeting absences would be allowed for a Commissioner until a resignation will be asked by the Commission. They noted the many times the STC could not take formal action on matters because a legal quorum was not present at their meeting.

At 8:04 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held Thursday, January 26, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building. This will be the Commission's Reorganization Meeting for 2023.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler, Recording Secretary