

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
February 18, 2020

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., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Borough Hall. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud. The Mission Statement of the Shade Tree Commission was read aloud.

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X	
Kristy Chmura, Vice Chrmn.	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Fran Drew	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
John Tortorella	X	
Patrick Florentino	X	
Beverly Klepper		X
Council Member Karen Korokiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Clerk		X – at a HPC meeting

Vice Chrmn. Chmura kindly took the meeting minutes in Ms. Holler’s absence.

Public Comments

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of the January 21, 2020 Shade Tree Commission meeting were approved as amended.

Discussion Items

Borough Tree at 16 Chestnut Street

Commissioners noted that John Linson, the Borough Arborist, has not submitted a final report on this tree. At the last meeting, the homeowner had reviewed the acorn problems this particular tree has been giving his property and family. Once the STC receives Mr. Linson’s report, they will make a decision about the tree.

On other matters, Commissioners also noted that there is money in their STC Budget to have Mr. Linson help them with the tree plantings program. Commissioners will ask Mr. Linson about his work capacity, and if he has any recommendations of any back-up arborists.

Commissioners will have a resolution prepared at their next meeting naming the primary and secondary arborists. Possibly the secondary arborist could be invited to a STC meeting, so Commissioners could ask him questions and review his resume.

Mr. Chmura made a motion to have Tony Torello, the Public Works Director and Tree Enforcement Officer, attend at least two STC meetings a year – specifically in the Fall and Spring. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Tree banners

Mrs. Drew discussed her tree banner designs. She reviewed the quote she recently received from Gates, the banner company. Gates has offered \$128 a banner if the STC could get four each featuring a new text.

Mr. Tortorella asked how many spaces would be available for the tree banners.

Mrs. Drew noted that there are plenty spaces available, for example, at Post Office Plaza.

Mr. Chmura brought up his banner selection ideas: “Plant Trees”, “Protect our Water”, “Raise your Home Value”. Perhaps if there are not 12 more available spaces, the STC could swap some existing spaces on Main Street.

Mrs. Drew said she could email Commissioners the possible new spaces. She counted 19 spots. Commissioners might have to ask the DPW if they had additional brackets and if they are able to put up the new banners.

Mr. Tortorella asked if the STC had to obtain permission for the new banner locations.

Chrmn. Truppo asked Council Member Korokiewicz if she could check with the Borough on that question.

Mr. Wilson made a motion that the Shade Tree Commission make three new banners:

1. Plant Trees
2. Provide Shade
3. Protect our Water

The motion was seconded. A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Korokiewicz will check with the Borough regarding permission to install additional banner locations.

CEU Update

Chrmn. Truppo reported that for 2020, Commissioners need to take the webinar classes live, when it is actually presented. The Commission needs eight CEUs collectively. Ten CEUs would be ideal.

Mr. Tortorella asked if CEUs are regulated.

Mrs. Drew asked if an updated list of Shade Tree Commissioners could be obtained. Perhaps the Minutes Secretary could bring this list at the next meeting.

Mrs. Drew reviewed how, in 2014, how the Commission had gathered a number of tree ordinances from neighboring towns. She noted how Jackson NJ's ordinance covers public and private trees. She would like the Commission to revisit it.

Chrmn. Truppo suggested that the Commission check in with the Borough to see how the new tree ordinance is being enforced.

Mr. Chmura asked for the flow chart of who approves the permits.

Council Member Korokiewicz suggested that the Borough tree ordinance be added to the Mayor and Council letter.

Chrmn. Truppo asked Council Member Korokiewicz if a meeting could be held to review how the tree ordinance is being enforced.

Ms. Chmura brought up the idea for this year's Arbor Day event to be a public tree planting at Rotary Park. A hand-out of tree information could be distributed. A short ceremony could be held.

At 8:41 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Vice Chrmn. Chmura & Liz Holler
Minutes Secretary