

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
January 21, 2020 7:30 p.m.

In Chairman Truppo's absence, Vice Chairman Kristy Chmura called this Regular and ReOrganization 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 – arrived 8:14 p.m. | |
| Liz Holler, Minutes Clerk | X | |

Administration of Oaths of Office

Ms. Holler, a notary public, swore in Mrs. Drew, to serve a new term on the Shade Tree Commission.

Public Comments

Dan Bremmer, 16 Chestnut St., reported that there is a very large Borough tree in front of his family's home. This tree has a number of branches which produce an excessive amount of acorns. Mr. Bremmer felt the branches were not safe. Also, he described the property damage done by these falling acorns to his car, the house gutter, and the roof. He distributed photos to Commissioners showing this situation. He and his wife have young children. Mr. Bremmer noted that the town has pruned this tree several times in the past, but the problem continues. Mr. Bremmer also felt the tree was a safety issue. The branches are now 3 to 5 feet

over his home. He showed Commissioners a short video clip of the acorns from this tree, during a hail storm, pelting his home's roof and windows.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura explained that the Shade Tree Commission, with the help of an arborist, must determine the health of a Borough tree when someone requests a removal. She told Mr. Bremmer that the Commission could ask the Borough Arborist to look at this tree in question and make a determination on its health. The Commission will have an answer for Mr. Bremmer at their next meeting.

Mr. Bremmer accepted this course of action. He thanked the Commissioners for their time and departed.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of December 17, 2019 Shade Tree Commission meeting were accepted as submitted.

Reorganization Resolutions for 2020

The following Reorganization Resolutions for 2020 were unanimously approved by the Shade Tree Commission:

Resolution #20-01: Resolution of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Establishing the Annual Meeting Schedule for the Year 2020

Resolution #20-02: Resolution Designating the Official Newspapers for the Publication of Legal Notices for the Year 2020

Resolution #20-03: Resolution electing the Shade Tree Commission Officers for the Year 2020:

Chair: Colleen Truppo

Vice Chair: Kristy Chmura

Discussion Items

Vegetation Management Program

Vice Chrmn. Chmura referred Commissioners to the hand-out she had distributed reporting on the State Senate Bill No. 434 which concerned vegetation management related to electric public utility infrastructure.

Mrs. Drew noted that Len Resto has recently emailed her info on this situation. She distributed the memo. She believed that this bill, if approved, would allow the public utility companies to remove any trees they so desire. Mrs. Drew noted the names of the two State Senators who are sponsoring this bill: Steven V. Oroho and Paul A. Sarlo. On her memo, Mrs. Drew had written in the addresses of their District Offices. She urged Commissioners to write these two Senators, expressing their opposition to Bill No. 434. Mrs. Drew plans on writing all of the State Senators that she had contacted earlier on this matter. If anyone is interested in contacting all of the State Senators, Mrs. Drew will provide their District Office addresses.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura agreed with this plan of action. A serious attempt should be made to stop this bill.

Mr. Chmura suggested that the Borough STC contact the NJ Shade Federation Tree Commission to make sure they are aware of this particular legislation. The Borough STC can also inform them of the letters of protest they will be sending to the two Senators. The Federation's address should be listed on their website.

Miscellaneous

On other matters, Mr. Chmura recalled a discussion at the November STC meeting about the possibility of the Commission purchasing additional tree banners to be put on display downtown. Mr. Chmura suggested that the Commission move ahead to purchase these new banners. Mrs. Drew had some possible names of companies who made banners.

Mr. Chmura made a motion for Mrs. Drew to look into obtaining the prices and pictures of these banners. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Chmura made a motion that the Commission ask that the Borough Arborist to attend at least one STC meeting a year. Mrs. Drew seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion unanimously passed.

Commissioners decided to ask the DPW to remove all the strappings on the tree plantings done last year. Vice Chrmn. Chmura will let Chrmn. Truppo know of this course of action.

Regarding the tree plantings that were to be done in this past autumn, they will be planted in early Spring 2020 instead. The weather this past fall was not conducive

to planting young trees. Ms. Holler has received a number of emails from residents on the waiting list for tree plantings, asking if this program was still happening. Vice Chrmn. Chmura will notify Chrmn. Truppo of this decision.

Mr. Wilson discussed with Commissioners a recent situation of his neighbor removing a tree on his personal property. He questioned whether his neighbor had obtained the required tree removal permit from the Borough. Commissioners noted that Margie Lowe, at Borough Hall, handles the Borough permit applications for trees to be removed on private property.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura and Mrs. Drew felt that there are many residents who are unaware of what permits and approvals are required to have a tree(s) legally removed, particularly on private property.

Mrs. Drew suggested that the Commission send out a post card to resident, like they did for the Ash Borer disease situation. The card could remind residents of what the Chatham Borough Shade Tree ordinance requires, particularly info regarding tree removals.

Mr. Chmura recommended that the applicants for these tree removal permits should state which tree company will be doing the work. The applicants should have the tree companies help fill in the needed information. The tree services should be including their license number.

Mr. Tortorella pointed out that area tree services should also be made aware of the Borough tree ordinance and its requirements.

At 8:40 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary