

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

June 22, 2023

7:30 p.m.

In Chairman Truppo's temporary absence, Vice Chrmn. Chmura's called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building. Ms. Chmura stated that all legal notices have been posted to this meeting.

Miles Gilmore was sworn in as a new member of the Shade Tree Commission. Gina Viola was sworn in for a new term on the Commission.

Attendance was taken:

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X – arrived half way into the meeting	
Kristy Chmura, Vice Chrmn.	X	
Dean Wilson		X
John Tortorella		X
Patrick Florentino		X
Beverly Klepper		X
George Sweetin	X	
Gina Viola	X	
Miles Gilmore	X	
Council Member Karen Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Vice Chrmn. Chmura read aloud the Mission Statement of the Shade Tree Commission.

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sweetin made a motion to approve the minutes of May 25, 2023 STC meeting as submitted. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The May 25, 2023 STC meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion Items

Vice Chrmn. Chmura reported that Chrmn. Truppo has been in touch with the Girl Scout, Anna Rice, working on her Gold Award Project. Chrmn. Truppo will do a walk-thru with Anna who is organizing her tree identification project.

STC Tree Walk

The Commission decided on a tentative date of June 27th. They will meet in the Middle School parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Vice Chrmn. Chmura explained these tree walks to Mr. Gilmore

At Vice Chrmn. Chmura's suggestion, Mr. Gilmore gave the Commission background information about himself. He is in the Supply Chain business and is a retired U.S. Army Officer. He and his family moved to Chatham ten years ago.

Jaycees Memorial Tree

Mr. Sweetin gave an update on the memorial tree that will eventually be planted in memory of Mr. Camelotto, a member of the Chatham Jaycees. The tree has just arrived from Colts Neck. Unfortunately, more paperwork needs to be completed. Mr. Sweetin reported that the same type of tree will be purchased to plant behind the Chatham Library. He was not clear who was going to water this new tree. Watering needs to be twice a week. Vice Chrmn. Chmura said she will touch base with Mr. Torello at the Department of Public Works. Perhaps it can be put on his work order.

Mr. Sweetin and Vice Chrmn. Chmura felt that a Swamp White Oak tree would be the best for the Camelotto memorial tree.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura suggested the memorial tree first be planted and mulched, and then a memorial ceremony could be held at a future date. Mr. Sweetin will talk to Mr. Toriello about the DPW watering the tree.

On other matters, Council Member Koronkiewicz reported that the Shade Tree Commission table had a number of visitors on Fishawack Day.

Borough Tree Ordinance Review

For the next meeting, vice Chrmn. Chmura asked Commissioners, to pull up the current Tree Ordinance on line and review it. Please think of ways to improve it. Vice Chrmn. Chmura noted that Summit and Montclair both had good tree ordinances. Mr. Sweetin felt that Madison had a good tree ordinance. He reviewed some of the good points the Madison ordinance contained. The Chatham Township tree ordinance may be too involved. Commissioners discussed the 6-inch planting rule in the tree ordinance. Mr. Sweetin felt that the Madison tree ordinance contained good re-planting instructions.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura and Mr. Gilmore discussed the recent history of the ash borer disease with the Borough ash trees. She explained some injections had been to local ash trees, not as much anymore.

Chrmn. Truppo arrived at this point.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura explained the Wind Shield Survey to Mr. Gilmore. She will email a copy of the Survey to him.

Chrmn. Truppo explained the donation the Chatham Jaycees give to the STC each year to help plant trees and other STC projects.

On other matters, Mr. Sweetin reported that one tree is currently missing in Fire House Plaza. He hopes to replace it with a Japanese Snow Bell tree.

Chrmn. Truppo added an update to Girl Scout Anna Rice's tree project. Anna has been informed that she has to include 25 more trees in her Gold Award project.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura showed the tree tags that the City of Summit uses. Perhaps Anna could consider tags like these for her project.

Commissioners explained the Tree Planting Program to Mr. Gilmore. Chrmn. Truppo will send Mr. Gilmore's email to the Shade Tree Federation to alert him of future events/activities. She explained the Shade Tree Federation Conference that is held every fall. Also, the Commissioners explained CORE training and CEUs to Mr. Gilmore and the Arbor Day Foundation Report.

Chrmn. Truppo reported on a meeting she and Mr. Sweetin had attended which included neighboring Shade Tree Commissions. Helpful information was exchanged. Participants indicated they would like to meet again in August. Different dates were discussed. Commissioners decided that August 6, 12, or 13 would be the best dates to meeting.

At 8:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary