

## CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

November 16, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Truppo stated that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo	X	
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	

Chrmn. Truppo read aloud the Mission Statement of the Chatham Shade Tree Commission.

### Public Comment

There were none.

### Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Florentino made a motion to approve the September 18, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The September 18, 2023 minutes were approved as amended.

### Discussion Items

#### Sustainability Fair

Chrmn, Truppo thanked Mr. Sweetin for getting all the material together for the STC's table. Many thanks to the Commission members who helped staff the table,

Beverly Klepper and Council Member Koronkiewicz. Chrmn. Truppo noted there were two winners who won the seedling contest.

### 2023 Fall Tree Plantings

Chrmn. Truppo noted that there had been some contentious feedback from residents regarding the planting of trees in the Borough Rights-of-Way.

Ms. Holler told Chrmn. Truppo that she has been receiving more tree requests on her email in the Borough Clerk's Office. These requests have arrived late in the program. She asked if the Shade Tree Commission and/or the DPW have been keeping track of these latest requests. Or should they be added on to the Tree Request List for 2024?

Chrmn. Truppo suggested a new list be formed starting with the emails in October. In the meanwhile she will check with Leo Pietrantuono and Dana down at Public Works to see if they, too, are keeping track of these requests.

Mr. Sweetin recommended that the trees be planted in September. The Commissioners discussed a more efficient way to deliver the trees to the correct properties.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Truppo asked Mr. Sweetin to come up with a recommended list of trees for future plantings.

### STC representation on Land Use Boards

Chrmn. Truppo reported that a while ago she had approached Mayor Kobylarz about the Shade Tree Commission having a place at the Zoning Board of Adjustment meetings. Council Member Koronkiewicz suggested she speak with Borough Administrator Steve Williams and Borough Attorney Steve Klieneman about this request.

### NJ Shade Tree Federation Convention

Chrmn. Truppo reported that the Convention held in late October was well attended. Chrmn. Truppo, George Sweetin and Gina Viola had attended.

Mr. Sweetin discussed an interesting an award-winning project he had heard about at the Conference. A kindergarten class had planted a tree years ago. The students took care of the tree over time. Every year the class comes together and has a group photo taken with the same tree. Perhaps the STC could reach out to the

Chatham School District about one of our kindergarten classes taking on such a project.

Miscellaneous

Vice Chrmn. Chmura confirmed that John Linson had looked at the Borough tree at 22 Garden Ave. The homeowner had concerns about this tree being safe. Mr. Linson had recommended the tree should be trimmed, which has been done.

Mr. Sweetin brought up the Stormwater DEP. Chatham Borough needs a good municipal tree ordinance. He showed Commissioners a book entitled “Law for NJ Trees”.

Mr. Florentino reported that he knows someone who will work pro bono to evaluate the differences between tree ordinances in our neighboring towns.

At 8:16 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary