

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission was held in Town Hall on April 8, 2008, beginning at 7:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Christine Quinn, Chairwoman of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission, called the meeting to order and acted as the Chairwoman thereof, and Kristen H. Hamilton acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided on January 7, 2008, of this meeting's date, time and place; the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Christine Quinn, Kathleen Kincade, Ann Solomon and Norma Swale.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Kim Kondracki.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 27, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Norma Swale, seconded by Christine Quinn, both in favor.

The minutes of the February 26, 2008, meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Christine Quinn, seconded by Kathleen Kincade. Norma Swale abstained; all others in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Revision/Update of Chapter 15-56E – Shade Trees – The Commission discussed possible revisions to the Township Code including, but not limited to:

- Replacing (a) Red Oak and (b) Scarlet Oak with White Oak due to fire blight affecting (a) and (b);
- Deleting (c) Honey Locust;
- Deleting (e) Sugar Maple because it gets too large;
- (j) White Ash and (k) Green Ash are questionable as they are prone to disease.

More research will need to be done prior to the next meeting.

Update on Community Forestry Plan – Christine advised that she attended a meeting with Paul Cowie & Associates regarding the Forestry Management Plan, where the prior plan was reviewed and commented upon.

Christine stressed the fact that a tree inventory needs to be completed. Once the Forestry Management Plan is complete, she will recommend that Paul Cowie & Associates be retained to prepare the inventory.

Arbor Day – April 25, 2008 – The Secretary previously advised the Commission that the school chose the Middle School Courtyard as the location for the tree planting. Some of the Commission members visited the site and chose an Amelanchier arborea (“Autumn Brilliance Shadblow”).

Christine Quinn will contact Audrey Smith to advise that she has been selected as the Guest of Honor for the Arbor Day celebration.

The Secretary will contact the Cranbury Press to request a photographer for the event and also post an announcement on the Township’s website.

DISCUSSION

The Secretary advised that she received a response from the Township Administrator that Jerry Thorne, as Public Works Manager, should be the proper party to send the letter regarding the tree on North Main Street in front of Cranbury Pizza that needs to be addressed. The Board opined that it felt someone should approach Cranbury Pizza in person explaining the problem and danger to the tree before a letter is sent. If the problem is not rectified, then a letter should be sent. Norma volunteered to visit Cranbury Pizza. The Secretary will send an email to the Township Administrator explaining the Commission’s desire.

A discussion was had regarding the Paw Paw tree on Maplewood Avenue. Christine Quinn explained the background of the tree and the Cranbury Housing Authority’s desire to build a house on the property and remove the “National Champion” tree. Kim Kondracki agreed to do some research and find out if there is any Federal protection available for the tree.

The Shade Tree Commission was asked to submit an article for the next edition of the Township’s Newsletter. The Secretary will advise of the deadline when received.

The Secretary was asked to get copies of Tree Ordinances from West Windsor and Princeton.

ADJOURNEMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, motion duly made by Christine Quinn, seconded by Ann Solomon, and carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, Kristen H. Hamilton, the undersigned do hereby certify;

That I was duly appointed secretary of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission and that the foregoing minutes of the Shade Tree Commission, held on April 8, 2008, consisting of 3 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name of said Shade Tree Commission this 10th day of June, 2008.

Kristen H. Hamilton