

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

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of November 27, 2007, of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission was held in Town Hall, beginning at 7:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present and with no Chairperson, Secretary, Kristen H. Hamilton called the meeting to order and performed 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 2, 2007 of this meeting's date, time, place and agenda, was mailed to those requesting personal notice and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Christine Quinn and Norma Swale.

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 11, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Norma Swale, second by Christine Quinn, both in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

CORE Training – Christine Quinn advised that she attended the 82nd Shade Tree Federation Meeting on October 26 and 27, 2007, where she received CORE training and attended numerous workshops. The workshops earned ten (10) CEUs for the Township. Christine Quinn bought a book entitled “Wood Decay Fungi” and collected numerous brochures and information which will be put in the Commission's library.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Shade Tree Liability Insurance – The Commission reviewed an email sent to Christine Smeltzer from Trishka Waterbury dated October 24, 2007, regarding the Shade Tree Commission's immunity from liability if it has fewer than the statutorily-required 5 members. Christine Quinn pointed out that the question wasn't raised because of the lack of members, it was raised because of its non-compliance in not having a current Community Forestry Management Plan. At the workshops she attended on October 27, 2007, Christine spoke to John H. Anlian, an attorney from Ridgefield Park who led a session on “Legal Issues in Community Forestry”, who informed her that individual members are not covered by the NJ Tort Act if they do not have a registered Management Plan. The Commission is most concerned and feels that the title of “Commission” should be removed until such time as it is compliant with the requirement of having a Management Plan. The Secretary will send an email to Christine Smeltzer outlining the Commission's concerns.

Revision/Update of Chapter 15-56E – Shade Trees – The Commission will research the list of shade trees and report back at the next meeting.

Commission Vacancies - The Commission is two members shy of full capacity. The Secretary will inquire of Linda Scott about a potential member.

2008 Meeting Dates – The Secretary informed the Commission of meeting dates for 2008. The members requested that meetings be held at 7:30pm rather than 7:00pm.

DISCUSSION

The Commission opined that it feels a Township Ordinance should be established regarding trees in the Township right-of-ways.

ADJOURNEMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, motion duly made by Chris Quinn, seconded by Norma Swale, 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 November 27, 2007, consisting of 2 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 8th day of April, 2008.

Kristen H. Hamilton