

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 3, 2022

The regular meeting of the Shade Tree Commission of the Township of Cranbury was held on February 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Ms. Kathy Easton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and Jean Golisano 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 5, 2022 of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was communicated 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

Kathy Easton, Jessica Irons, Jackie Johnson, Bonnie Larson, and Lee Nissen were present.

NONMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eman El-Badawi, Township Committee Liaison
Judy Gardner, Cranbury Resident

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Golisano, Deputy Clerk, issued the Oath of Office to Ms. Nissen for Member with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

REORGANIZATION

On a motion by Ms. Johnson, with all members in agreement, Ms. Easton was elected to serve as Chairperson for 2022.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 4, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Johnson, and seconded by Ms. Easton. On a voice vote, with all members present agreeing, the Minutes of the November 4th meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the November 4th to February 3rd time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours (including 1.5 hours for today's meeting): Ms. Easton - 12 hours; Ms. Johnson – 4.5; Ms. Larson – 11.5 hours; Ms. Nissen – 1.5 hours; and Ms. Irons – 1.5 hours.

Community Education Program

Ms. Easton will contact Dr. Laura Zurfluh, Chair of the Board of Health, to schedule a Shade Tree Commission program on the benefits of trees for the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. A Zoom event could be as early as May; however, a more tactile, real-time experience would not be scheduled until later.

"Do Not Plant" and Exhibit Lists Status

Work continues on updating the "Do Not Plant List." Ms. Johnson suggested adding some photos to better identify the plants. Members agreed that photos would be helpful, and Ms. Easton suggested having a separate document with pictures in addition to the spreadsheet. Members agreed Ms. Nissen's Cranbury Day poster of names/descriptions and photos of "do not plant" trees could be posted. Completed documents will be posted on the Township website.

Website Page Review

Ms. Irons and Ms. Easton will review and update the Shade Tree website as needed.

Memorial Trees

Ms. Easton reported a native magnolia will be planted in Heritage Park in memory of Mr. Tom Weidner, former Chair and long-time member of the Parks Commission. The tree will be planted near the ornamental crabapples near Judy's Meadow. Ms. Easton and Ms. Nissen will shop for the tree. Ms. El-Badawi inquired when the date of planting would be because people may want to attend. Ms. Easton will follow up with the Parks Chair concerning timing.

Ms. Easton reported a white oak is being donated by the Golisano Family in memory of Mr. Golisano. The tree will be planted this spring in the northeast corner of the 1700's house in Millstone Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day

Arbor Day will be on April 29th. Ms. Easton will reach out to Cranbury School to see if second graders will participate this year. Locations to plant the tree were discussed, including replacing a red bud near Brainerd Lake. Further discussion on locations will be discussed at the April meeting.

Art in the Park

The Parks Commission is planning to celebrate the installation of three wind sculptures in Heritage Park. The Art in the Park event will coincide with celebrating the Township's 325th Anniversary. Many Boards/Commissions and local organizations have been invited to participate. Ms. Nissen, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Larson volunteered to represent Shade Tree. An art project and information will be available for children. Ms. Nissen's "Do Not Plant" poster will be displayed.

Cranbury's 325th Anniversary

Mayor Rogers has requested that all Boards/Commissions participate in celebrating the Township's 325th Anniversary. Shade Tree will prepare a program on the benefits of trees, either to be held on Zoom or in person, depending on the timing of the event.

Spotted Lanternfly Management at Village Park

Members discussed the treatment of trees at Village Park. Ms. Easton informed members that two treatments were performed at Village Park. The first addressed the insects, and the second was applied to the female ailanthus trees. This year, Ms. Easton stated affected good trees (maples, not the ailanthus) will be treated and the rest of the ailanthus trees will be removed.

Ms. Johnson reported that Sav-A-Tree noticed egg masses on the birch trees in Four Seasons. Ms. Easton inquired if the egg masses can be scraped; however, Ms. Johnson advised the egg masses were too plentiful and too high up for scraping. She stated Penn State has helpful information on the spotted lanternfly, and she reported she would share the link. The spotted lanternfly is a plant sucker, and the resulting honeydew attracts bees and wasps. The treatment will not prevent an outbreak of spotted lanternfly; however, it will prevent the honeydew that attracts the bees and wasps.

Replacement of Evergreen Tree in Heritage Park

The Parks Commission has requested Shade Tree's assistance to plant an evergreen tree near the sparse evergreen in Heritage Park. If Shade Tree does not have the funds in its budget, Parks will purchase the tree from its beautification budget. Ms. Easton will reach out to the Parks Chair.

Shade Tree Federation Convention – Ms. Irons reported the classes offered at the Convention can now be viewed for free. She stated she will share the link with members.

Tree Inventory

Ms. Johnson will prepare quote request for tree inventory to be sent to three contractors. Tree inventory will exclude trees in parks, Four Seasons (conducting their own inventory) and properties on the east side of Route 130. Developments with HOAs will be included so the Township has an inventory of all trees.

Tree Maintenance

Ms. Easton reported pruning is scheduled for the trees in Barn Park and hazardous trees on North Main Street. A hazardous tree on Bunker Hill will also need to be removed.

Heritage Tree Ordinance

Ms. Irons explained the State tracks champion and historic trees to protect or recognize them. Trees could be categorized as such due to size or their connection to a historic event. There was discussion about the paw paw tree near Village Park. Members agreed it is important to determine the Township's resources to protect its heritage trees. Ms. Easton reported the Township does have a canopy goal for Sustainable Jersey, and also stated no tree in a public space may be removed without the approval of the Shade Tree Commission.

Summary of "To Do" Action Items

1. Ms. Irons
 - a. Send Link for Shade Tree Federation Convention Classes
2. Ms. Johnson
 - a. Share link for Rutgers Spotted Lanternfly Information.
 - b. Prepare proposal for tree inventory quotes.

3. Ms. Easton
 - a. Coordinate Community Education Program with Dr. Zurfluh for Wellness Campaign.
 - b. Contact Parks Chair concerning replacement tree in Heritage Park

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, motion duly made by Ms. Easton, seconded by Ms. Nissen and unanimously carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed Secretary of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission, and that this document, consisting of four (4) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 3, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 8th day of April, 2022.

Jean Golisano
Board Secretary