

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 7, 2022

The regular meeting of the Shade Tree Commission of the Township of Cranbury was held on April 7, 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

MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Easton and seconded by Ms. Larson. On a voice vote, with all members present agreeing, the Minutes of the February 3rd meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the February 3rd to April 4th time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours (including 1.5 hours for today's meeting): Ms. Easton – 21 hours; Ms. Johnson – 5.5; Ms. Larson – 11.5 hours and 2 CEUs for Backyard Forestry; Ms. Nissen – 1.5 hours; and Ms. Irons – 6.5 hours.

Community Education Program

As part of the Mayors Wellness Campaign, Ms. Easton will present “The Benefits of Trees” via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.

“Do Not Plant” and Exhibit Lists Status

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Easton will continue to work on the lists, and updated materials will be posted on the Shade Tree website.

Website Page Review

The links on the website have been checked and updated. Ms. Irons stated one state link may need to be updated. Ms. Golisano will follow up on that. Ms. Easton stated this item may be removed from future agendas.

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. Irons will shop for the tree.

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 celebrated on April 29th. Ms. Easton reported the Cranbury School second graders will be able to participate in person this year. Locations to plant the tree were discussed, including the west and east corners of Park Place and North Main Street. Ms. Easton and Ms. Irons will select a tree. Red bud tube seedlings have been ordered, and Ms. Easton and Ms. Johnson will prepare the tube seedlings for distribution to the second graders.

Art in the Park

Art in the Park was postponed due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled for later in the spring.

Cranbury's 325th Anniversary

Mayor Rogers has requested that all Boards/Commissions participate in celebrating the Township's 325th Anniversary. Members discussed having an event, "Heritage Park Tree Walk with Shade Tree" on Saturday, September 17th (rain date, Sunday, September 18th) at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Tom Weidner's memorial tree will be planted in the park by that time. Ms. Irons and Ms. Easton will work on preparing a narrative on the history of the trees for the walk. Details for the event will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Spotted Lanternfly Management at Village Park

Members discussed the ongoing treatment of the ailanthus trees at Village Park. Ms. Easton informed members that a special workshop meeting would be necessary to discuss this in detail. Since the female ailanthus trees were removed last year, there is a lot of open spaces that will be filled quickly with invasive species if not addressed soon.

Members discussed in addition to the ailanthus tree, there are new hosts for the spotted lanternfly, including red maples, willow trees, red buds and sycamore trees. There was discussion about treatments; however, most are available only to professionals and not residents.

Ms. Easton stated her preference to continue working with Sav-A-Tree instead of going back out to quote. She asked Ms. El-Badawi to see if it was possible to work with them on an on-going basis. Ms. Easton stated Save-A-Tree is a large company that has certified arborists who know how to deal with the spotted lanternfly. Since they treated the trees first round, she would like to

continue with them. She stated Save-A-Tree covers the whole spectrum of tree care. Ms. Irons spoke highly of the company; however, she voiced concern that they are not listed as certified. Ms. Easton will follow up with Save-A-Tree concerning their certification.

Ms. Larson reported there are many ailanthus trees on the path behind the Fire House. Ms. Easton was aware of the trees and stated there are no funds available to treat them.

Members agreed to a special meeting on April 20th at 9:30 a.m. to discuss and plan strategy for the spotted lanternfly.

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. Ms. Easton and Ms. Irons will purchase the tree.

Tree Inventory

Ms. Easton, Ms. Irons and Ms. Johnson will work on the RFP for the Township's tree inventory. Ms. Irons reported the NJ DEP has grant funds for tree inventories. The 2022 grant cycle is not yet posted, but should be published in April with a very quick turnaround.

Tree Maintenance

Ms. Easton reported the ailanthus trees in Village Park will be addressed and trees with dangerous or hanging limbs in the Township will be pruned. Ms. Easton stated regular pruning has been done in four parks over the last few years; however, it will be time to start the cycle again.

Ms. Larson asked that the two stumps in front of Heritage Park be ground down. Ms. Easton stated a flush cut would suffice or the stumps could rot naturally. Ms. Easton will follow up with Public Works.

Heritage Tree Ordinance

Members agreed the best course would be to research other municipalities and model Cranbury's Heritage Tree Ordinance after a simple model that would not require funding.

Summary of "To Do" Action Items

- Ms. Irons
 - a. Select trees for Arbor Day, two memorial trees and Heritage Park evergreen
 - b. Work on history of trees for fall walk.
 - c. Prepare proposal for tree inventory quotes.
- 2. Ms. Johnson
 - a. Share link for Rutgers Spotted Laternfly Information.
 - b. Prepare proposal for tree inventory quotes.
 - c. Prepare tube seedlings for Arbor Day.
- 3. Ms. Easton
 - a. Present "The Benefits of Trees" on April 20th.
 - b. Prepare tube seedlings for Arbor Day.
 - c. Select trees for Arbor Day, two memorial trees and Heritage Park evergreen.
 - d. Check Sav-A-Tree "certified" status not posted on website.
 - e. Follow up with Public Works about stumps on Main Street by Heritage Park.
 - f. Work on history of trees for fall walk.
 - g. Prepare proposal for tree inventory quotes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, motion duly made by Ms. Easton, seconded by Ms. Larson and unanimously carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 11:30 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 April 7, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this xx day of June, 2022.

Jean Golisano
Board Secretary