

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 5, 2019

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission was held in the Gourgaud Gallery in Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Cranbury, on September 5, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Kathy Easton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and Jean Golisano acted as the 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 December 20, 2018, of this meeting's date, time and place, and 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

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

Non-member in attendance

Dr. John Battles – Four Seasons

MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Easton; seconded by Ms. Johnson. On a voice vote of all members present, the June 6th Minutes were approved.

The Minutes of the August 8, 2019 Special Meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Easton; seconded by Ms. Larson. On a voice vote of all members present, the August 8th Minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the June 7th to September 5th time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours: Ms. Easton – 21; Ms. Johnson – 6; and Ms. Larson – 9; Ms. Nissen – 3; Ms. Irons - 2 volunteer hours.

CFMP Objectives and Tasks – Ms. Easton reviewed the Objectives and Tasks and reported Shade Tree is on target with accomplishing its tasks, including hazardous tree

evaluations, planting program, and structural pruning. Ms. Easton suggested discussing a proposed Heritage Tree Ordinance at the November meeting

Coordination with Parks and DPW

Ms. Easton stated Shade Tree will continue to coordinate with the Parks Commission and the DPW concerning tree maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Do Not Plant List/Exhibit List Review

The updated lists will be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

Four Seasons Planting

Ms. Johnson reviewed with the members the sequence of events for the Four Seasons planting, including the delay because the holes had to be hand dug; trees selected were no longer available, and the trees were planted late. Ms. Johnson is monitoring the trees. She stated the contractor has been keeping the trees watered; however, some trees are showing stress and one tree looks dead. Ms. Johnson shared with the Shade Tree members the Four Seasons bulletin distributed to residents containing information on the trees, and the request that residents do not pick flowers, leaves or seeds off the trees. There was discussion that the trees were single stemmed and they should have been branched off at the nursery. Ms. Easton and Ms. Johnson will examine trees and submit a list of concerns in a letter to LMS. Of particular concern were two trees, one at 84 Labaw and the other at 17 Hagerty, as well as some trees being too wet. Ms. Johnson recommended the gator bags be taken off before a freeze, and members discussed the best time to remove the bags.

Spotted Lanternfly – The Spotted Lanternfly has been detected along the Delaware River and also in many surrounding counties. Middlesex County has not been included on the list yet although Shade Tree members have spotted them in the area and will call to report the sightings.

Cranbury Day – Copies of handouts have been made for Cranbury Day. Members agreed on an additional handout to include the websites for the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, Arbor Day Foundation and the NJ DEP Forest Service.

Training and Continuing Education – A community education workshop, “Tree Facts,” will be presented at the Cranbury Library on October 16th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The focus of the program will be general education about trees, and will introduce the “Do Not Plant List” and have a Q&A period.

Workshop Training – A pruning workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 1st for up to ten attendees. Four Shade Tree members have committed to attend. Ms. Golisano will invite DPW members, and depending on spots available, will also reach out to members of Parks and the Environmental Commission. If space is still available, Ms. Golisano will advise Ms. Johnson for Four Seasons to participate as well.

Tree Inquiries – An inquiry was received about a tree on the corner of Maplewood and Scott Avenues. Ms. Easton will look at the tree.

Tree Pruning in Heritage Park – Ms. Easton will contact three vendors, Timberwolf, Save-A-Tree, and Princeton Tree Care, to get estimates for pruning work in Heritage Park. There are many trees in the Park that require attention.

Annual Report to Township Committee – Ms. Easton will present the Shade Tree annual report and 2020 goals at the November 25th Township Committee Meeting. The “No Plant List” and updated “Shade Tree Recommended Tree List” will be part of the annual report.

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 carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 11:00 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 three (3) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on September 5, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 8th day of November, 2019.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano
Board Secretary