

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
January 10, 2019**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

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

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Kathy Easton, Chair of the Shade Tree Commission (STC), 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. Norma Swale was absent.

Non-Members in Attendance

Four Seasons residents: Dr. John Battles, Ms. Kathy Lehr, Ms. Monica Smith and Ms. Charlie Webb.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Larson; seconded by Ms. Johnson. On a voice vote of all members present, the members voted 4 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the November 8, 2018 to January 10, 2019 time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours: Ms. Easton -21 volunteer hours; Ms. Johnson - 9 hours; Ms. Larson – 6.5 hours and Ms. Nissen – 1.5 hours.

2019 Goals – Ms. Easton reviewed the 2019 Objectives, including an Ordinance for private and heritage trees as well as ongoing training programs for Shade Tree members, Public Works and residents.

Coordination with Parks and DPW

Ms. Easton stated Shade Tree will continue to partner with the Parks Commission and the DPW. She stated it has been helpful to have a Shade Tree member attend the Parks meetings, and she or Ms. Johnson will try to attend future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP)- Ms. Johnson suggested Shade Tree discuss 2019 CSIP grants at the February meeting. Applications have not been put up on the website yet.

Tree inquiries – Ms. Easton reported the tree inquiries received were reviewed and addressed by Mr. Jerry Thorne, Public Works.

Do Not Plant List/Exhibit List Review

Members will bring additional information to the February meeting to continue to work on the “Do Not Plant List.”

Annual Accomplishment Report

Ms. Easton stated the report is due mid-February and she, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Golisano will work on completing the report.

Tree List for Four Seasons

The goal is to plant 40 trees in Four Seasons to replace more of the diseased ash trees that were removed last year. Ms. Johnson reviewed the species of trees that were planted last year in Four Seasons. She further discussed tree diversity for the community; however, it is sometimes difficult to obtain a variety of species due to a limited supply at nurseries. Ms. Johnson reported the street trees are doing fine. Shade Tree scheduled a special meeting for January 24, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gourgaud Gallery to further discuss tree species options and to finalize the list.

Vegetation Management Response Act

There was discussion regarding the Vegetation Management Response Act (S2505/A2558), which passed the Assembly and is expected to be voted on by the Senate at the end of the month. The Act would allow all utility companies to do work on any property that it has acquired rights of way without prior permission from the municipality. Members discussed doing a letter to advocate for trees. Ms. Easton stated she would contact the Township Administrator for her approval before sending a letter.

Beautification Trees

Ms. Denise Marabello, Township Administrator, requested that Shade Tree look at the trees planted during the Downtown Beautification Project. The Township received a complaint that some of the roots of those trees were causing the sidewalk bricks to heave. Ms. Marabello requested that Shade Tree obtain quotes for root barriers for the beautification trees. Ms. Nissen will count the number of trees, and Ms. Easton stated she would call Growing Concern for a quote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, motion duly made by Ms. Easton, seconded by Ms. Johnson, and 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 three (3) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on January 10, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 7th day of February, 2019.

Jean Golisano
Jean Golisano
Board Secretary