

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
September 6, 2018**

**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 September 6, 2018, 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 4, 2017, 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 Norma Swale were present. Lee Nissen arrived at 10:12 a.m.

Dr. John Battles, Four Seasons resident, was present.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the June 7, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Larson; seconded by Ms. Easton. On a voice vote of all members present, the members voted 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the June 7<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup> time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours: Ms. Easton - 33 volunteer hours; Ms. Johnson - 24.5 hours; Ms. Swale - 2 hours; Ms. Larson - 2 hours and Ms. Nissen - 2 hours.

Green Communities Grant – Ms. Easton reported the voucher and spreadsheets of volunteer hours have been submitted to the New Jersey Forest Service for reimbursement for work performed under the Community Forestry Program – Green Communities Grant. Ms. Golisano will follow up with the State if the reimbursement is not received in 60 days.

Coordination with Parks and Department of Public Works – Shade Tree, the Parks Commission and Department of Public Works will work together to address the care of young trees in the Township. Ms. Johnson reported the Arbor Day crabapple tree's bag was filled with water, and water bags had been added to the new trees on Main Street. Ms. Easton reported either she or Ms. Johnson will try to attend the monthly Parks

Meetings. Ms. Easton reported Shade Tree will get together with Township Committee member Michael Ferrante and Public Works Manager Jerry Thorne concerning the Forestry Plan to see how the Township can help.

Ms. Sally O'Grady, Parks member, alerted Ms. Easton to marked trees in Heritage Park, inquiring if these trees will be removed and why other trees were not marked. Ms. Easton and Ms. Johnson will inspect the trees in Heritage Park early next week and will give report at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Parks Meeting.

Tree Planting Plan – Landscape Maintenance Services in Hillsborough will be planting the 26 new trees (eight on Main Street and 18 on Hagerty Drive) at a cost of \$12,000. Ms. Easton will contact LMS concerning the planting schedule. Due to the extreme heat, the planting may be delayed until cooler weather.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tree inquiries – Ms. Easton reported two tree inquiries: a dead hazardous tree at 39 Petty Road is on DPW's list for removal this year. The second tree at 10 Bunker Hill has rotted wood at the bottom and dead branches on top and is scheduled for removal this year if the DPW budget allows, or will be removed next year.

October Shade Tree Conference – The Conference will be held on October 18-19. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Larson will attend on Thursday, October 18 for five CEUs. Ms. Easton reported members have received 2 CEUs for Invasive Species Seminar and 2 CEUs for Online Annual Accomplishments.

Do Not Plant List/ Exhibit List Review – The members agreed to review the Exhibit List for discussion at the November meeting. The current list has species that are susceptible to Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS) and members agreed those trees should be removed from the list and added to a "Do Not Plant List." Ms. Johnson shared research materials on BLS and reported that one-third of the trees in Shadow Oaks are dying. She reported Leaf Scorch, assumed to be but is not BLS, can kill trees in a year. Ms. Johnson reported scorch is spreading and affects many species of trees, including maple trees. She stated disease management includes cutting the affected limbs, selecting new varieties to plant and avoiding planting highly susceptible varieties. BLS affects 35% of the trees in New Jersey and Ms. Johnson recommended Shade Tree plan for alternate tree suggestions. The members thanked Ms. Johnson for her research and information and agreed to further review the materials at the next meeting.

Cranbury Day – STC members reviewed materials to be distributed on Cranbury Day. Ms. Nissen suggested always referring to the web to access the most updated information. She also recommended Ms. Larson and Ms. Johnson collect information from the Fall Conference.

Fall Newsletter – Ms. Johnson or Ms. Easton will coordinate preparing an article to update residents on the fall tree planting plan. Submission deadline for articles is October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Community Education Fourth Quarter – Members discussed ideas for community education. It was decided to wait until spring since the members will be working on the “Do Not Plant List” in the fall to make residents and developers aware of what species should not be planted. Ms. Larson suggested a spring planting guide, and Ms. Johnson suggested coordinating a program for 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Cranbury School.

Tree Surveys - Ms. Easton, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Swale will inspect the trees in Heritage Park. Ms. Nissen and Ms. Larson will check the trees on Main Street. Ms. Easton stated some Main Street trees need to be straightened and the species identified, if possible. She stated many trees are from the “Beautification” and “No Net Loss” Projects. Ms. Easton recommended STC members e-mail Mr. Jerry Thorne with a copy to her of any hazardous trees they notice in the Township. There was discussion about rights of way, and Ms. Easton stated after a resident inquiry is received, Mr. Thorne will measure to see if the tree is in a ROW.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Dr. Battles thanked the STC members for their assistance at Four Seasons.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

There being no further business, motion duly made by Ms. Easton, seconded by Ms. Nissen, and carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 10:58 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 6, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 8th day of November, 2018.

Jean Golisano  
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Board Secretary