

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 7, 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 November 7, 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, Jessica Irons, and Lee Nissen were present. Jackie Johnson and Bonnie Larson were excused

Non-member in attendance

Sally O'Grady – Parks Commission

RECORDING OF MEETING

Ms. Golisano advised the Shade Tree Members that this meeting and all future meetings will be recorded, as are all other Township Board/Commission meetings.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 5, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Easton; seconded by Ms. Nissen. On a voice vote of all members present, with Ms. Irons abstaining, the September 5th Minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the September 6th to November 7th time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours: Ms. Easton – 34.5; Ms. Johnson – 14; and Ms. Larson – 9; Ms. Nissen – 1.5; Ms. Irons – 7.5 volunteer hours.

Ms. Easton, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Irons earned 4 CEUs for participating in the October Tree Pruning Workshop.

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 requested keeping the proposed Heritage Tree Ordinance on the February agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Do Not Plant List/Exhibit List Review

Ms. Easton requested the items on draft list be separated by category: grasses, shrubs, trees and vines. Ms. Golisano will update the list for Ms. Easton to present with her report to the Township Committee.

Four Seasons Planting

Ms. Easton read a report from Ms. Johnson concerning the trees planted in Four Seasons, which stated Ms. Johnson had walked the community and found the trees to all appear alive. Trees that were under consideration for replacement look slightly improved! Ms. Johnson further reported in early spring she will report to LMS if any trees need replacement.

Spotted Lanternfly

Ms. Easton stressed the importance of keeping information about the Spotted Lanternfly on the web. It has been detected along the Delaware River and also in many surrounding counties, and Ms. Easton stated this invasive insect is a real problem and education and awareness are essential.

Cranbury Day

Ms. Easton reported the Cranbury Day table was very busy with children painting rocks, an activity sponsored by the Parks Commission. She stated the EC also had a fun question box, which was well received. There was not a lot of activity for Shade Tree, and Ms. Easton stated the members can decide in the future if Shade Tree will participate again. Copies of handouts for the day are being saved for future events.

Training and Continuing Education

A community education workshop, “ABCs of Trees,” was presented at the Cranbury Library on October 16th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The focus of the program was on the general education of trees and introduced the “Do Not Plant List”. Ms. Easton reported the attendance was small; however, the hour was put to good use with participants all learning something new about trees.

Ms. Easton suggested possibly conducting the “ABCs of Trees” workshop again next year. She requested Ms. Golisano put “Community Education/Family Outside Activity” on the February 2020 agenda for further discussion.

Tree Inquiries

An inquiry was received about an abundance of acorns dropped by a tree on the corner of Maplewood and Scott Avenues. Ms. Easton and Mr. Jerry Thorne looked at the tree. It was confirmed the tree is OK. Ms. Nissen stated many trees are dropping a lot of acorns this year.

Ms. Easton reported the resident at 5 Bunker Hill called for advice on the proper way to address the roots of the trees in front of his home. He will be having his sidewalk replaced due to root damage and will need to cut the roots.

Tree Pruning in Heritage Park

Ms. Easton contacted three vendors, Timberwolf, Sav-A-Tree, and Princeton Tree Care, to get estimates for pruning work in Heritage Park. Timberwolf and Sav-A-Tree walked Heritage Park with Ms. Easton and Ms. Johnson and provided quotes. Princeton Tree Care was nonresponsive. Sav-A-Tree came in at approximately half of Timberwolf's quote, and was therefore awarded the contract. She stated Sav-A-Tree addresses the safety and health of trees and gave a very good price. There are many trees in the Park that require attention, and Ms. Easton reported work should be starting shortly. Trees that need to be removed have been marked, and other trees will be pruned. Ms. O'Grady inquired if a dangerous leaning tree behind her property in the Park would be addressed, and Ms. Easton stated Sav-A-Tree will be either topping or taking down that tree. She stated she will follow up with Sav-A-Tree by e-mail. Ms. Easton stated most of the work in Heritage Park will be trees around the walking path.

Ms. O'Grady brought to the attention of the STC a very dangerous hanging limb on the Unami Woods Trail. She stated Mr. Jerry Thorne, Public Works Manager, is aware of the branch and is not sure if Sav-A-Tree can get the trucks to the site. Ms. Easton recommended sending another e-mail to Mr. Thorne, and Ms. Marabello advising the branch is there. Ms. O'Grady stated she is willing to change the path of the trail and put up yellow caution tape so the area is safe.

Workshop Training

The pruning workshop was held on Tuesday, October 1st and was attended by three Public Works employees, four Shade Tree members and one resident representing the EC. Ms. Easton highly praised Mr. Paul Cowie, who conducted the workshop. After Mr. Cowie's presentation, the group went outside for hands-on training. Ms. Easton stated the three Public Works employees received training on pruning trees.

Annual Report to Township Committee

Ms. Easton will present the Shade Tree 2019 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. Ms. Easton will also report on Shade Tree's contribution toward the Sustainable Jersey Recertification.

Heritage Tree Ordinance

Members discussed the importance of a Heritage Tree Ordinance, which would protect heritage trees on public and private properties in the Township. This was tabled for further discussion at the February meeting.

2020 Budget

The members discussed the draft budget presented by Ms. Easton. It was agreed Dues, Training and Tree Pruning and Tree Planting would remain the same as last year. The goal will be for Ms. Irons to obtain core training. The members agreed on purchasing a Shade Tree banner, which will be discussed further at the February meeting. There was discussion about the cost of a tree inventory, and if \$10,000 would be sufficient. Ms. Irons will contact Sav-A-Tree to research that cost. On a motion by

Ms. Easton, seconded by Ms. Irons, with all members present agreeing, the budget was approved pending the adjustment of the tree inventory cost not to exceed \$20,000.

Tree Inventory

Members reviewed the 2002 Tree Inventory. Old Cranbury Road will have to be added. Ms. Golisano will look for an electronic version of the inventory. Ms. Irons inquired if the list will be listed by street addresses, stating it is more difficult to work off a block and lot list.

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 carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 11:15 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 November 7, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 10th day of February, 2020.

Jean Golisano
Jean Golisano
Board Secretary