

# **CRANBURY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**April 1, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Shade Tree Commission of the Township of Cranbury was held on April 1, 2021 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 10:02 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 8, 2021 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**

Dr. Barbara Rogers, Township Committee Liaison  
Mr. Paul Mullen, Environmental Commission Chair

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Easton, and seconded by Ms. Johnson. On a voice vote, with all members present agreeing, the February 4th Minutes were approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)

Volunteer Work Hours – For the February 4<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> time period, STC members reported the following volunteer hours (including 2.0 hours for today's meeting): Ms. Easton – 22 hours (two CEUs – one hour for Winter Tree ID webinar and one hour of for Managing a Community Forest, both delivered by NJFA); Ms. Johnson – 11 hours (1 CEU for Winter Tree ID); and Ms. Larson – 10 hours (1 CEU for Winter Tree ID); Ms. Nissen – 4 hours; Ms. Irons – 13.5 volunteer hours.

### Spotted Lanternfly Alert

Mr. Paul Mullen, Environmental Commission Chair, joined the meeting to discuss possible solutions to the spotted lanternfly infestation. Mr. Mullen was in touch with the Department of Agriculture concerning how best to handle the situation. There are guidelines posted on the DOA website; however, there was concern about using any methods that would impact pollinating bees. Shade Tree and the EC cannot recommend products to residents to use but can advocate homeowners to look at websites for information. Ms. Easton stated, if requested by homeowners, Shade Tree members can go to identify trees and lanternfly infestations. Ms. Irons stated municipalities near Cranbury had to aggressively address the spotted lanternfly problem and suggested it would be beneficial to see what they have done. All agreed that education will be key, and time is of the essence. Spotted Lanternfly infestation Alert information will be posted on the Township website, e-mail blasted, and flyers will be posted in the kiosks. Mr. Mullen will check with the Township Administrator to see if legal counsel can be sought on what information can be disseminated. Ms. Easton will check with the Township landscape engineer to see if they are dealing with the problem. Members agreed information from the State site should be shared with residents. Ms. Easton, Ms. Irons and Mr. Mullen will meet next week to further discuss the issue. Dr. Rogers will report the infestation alert at the Township Committee meeting.

### Community Education Program

Ms. Easton stated the education program is still temporarily on hold due to COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions.

### Mayor's Wellness Program

Ms. Easton reported she will offer to do a presentation in the fall for the Wellness Program.

### "Do Not Plant" and Exhibit Lists Status

Ms. Easton reported she and Ms. Johnson worked together via Zoom to check the lists for accuracy and to update information. The corrected lists will be brought to the next meeting.

### Website Page Review

Ms. Irons reviewed the website and presented to members a list of items that should be updated. Members agreed that information should also be posted that residents may consult Cranbury Shade Tree Commission for guidance on the planting of trees and tree maintenance. Ms. Golisano will work on posting the items.

### Arbor Day

Seedlings have been ordered and will be distributed to second graders at Cranbury School. Ms. Johnson will prepare a short information sheet. There was discussion on planting the tree on South Main Street near Heritage Park, and Ms. Easton and Ms. Johnson will look at the corner next week to determine exact location.

### Memorial Tree

Ms. Easton reported the memorial tree will be planted near the 1700s historic house in Millstone Park. There is plenty of room to accommodate an American Beech.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Tree Inquiries

No tree inquiries were received since the February meeting. Ms. Easton reported the two stumps on South Main Street near Heritage Park will be ground down.

### Tree Inventory

Now that the Township budget has been adopted, Ms. Easton will reach out to the Township Engineer to obtain the delineation on the rights of way of trees so that RFQs can be sent out for the tree inventory.

### Tree Maintenance

Ms. Easton reported the tree pruning and maintenance work for 2021 will include Barn Park, the walkway near Barn Park to Liedtke Drive and Memorial Park (if needed). Structural pruning of young trees is essential.

### Heritage Tree Ordinance

Ms. Irons will continue to work on the Heritage Tree Ordinance. Dr. Rogers voiced her support on a Heritage Tree Ordinance and offered her assistance. Ms. Irons will send documents to Dr. Rogers.

### Summary of "To Do" Action Items

1. Ms. Nissen
  - a. Continue to research grants on the NJUCF website.
2. Ms. Johnson
  - a. Arbor Day information sheet.
  - b. Research Tree inventory options and get estimates.
3. Ms. Irons
  - a. Research Tree inventory options and get estimates.
  - b. Meet with Mr. Mullen and Ms. Easton concerning Spotted Lanternfly.
  - c. Continue to work on Heritage Tree Ordinance.
  - d. Send Heritage Tree Ordinance information to Dr. Rogers.
4. Ms. Easton
  - a. Meet with Mr. Mullen and Ms. Irons concerning Spotted Lanternfly.
  - b. Memorial tree.
  - c. Contact Township Engineer for right-of-way information.
  - d. Contact landscape architect for guidance on Spotted Lanternfly.

### **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 unanimously carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 11:50 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 xx (x) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on April 1, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this xx day of June, 2021.

Jean Golisano  
Board Secretary