

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
March 18, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Kenneth Fekete called this Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 313, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Fekete announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Kenneth Fekete	X	
Patrick Carroll	X	
Richard Reardon		X
John Barton	X	
Marc Boisclair		X
Thomas E. Boyle		X
Christopher Jadro	X	
Frances Drew	X	
Tony Torello		x
Colleen Truppo	X – present on speaker phone	
Council Member Alida Kass		x

Resolution #14-07

Resolution to adopt meeting minutes

The meeting minutes of February 4, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Public Comment

There was none.

Finance Update

Mr. Fekete reported that he has recently met with Mr. Mariniello, the Borough CFO. Somehow the Commission's budget got intermingled with that of the DPW. Mr. Mariniello will print out a clearer document for the Commission.

Arbor Day Update

Mr. Fekete reported that he and Mr. Jadro had met and discussed what could be done to observe this holiday. Mr. Jadro had suggested representatives from the Commission could visit a local school. Mr. Fekete noted that he had visited Mary Quigley, principal of Washington Ave. School. Ms. Quigley suggested the Commission could give a tree-related program, and combine it with Earth Day. A combination of these two activities could be geared towards the first and second graders.

Mr. Fekete suggested a tree planting ceremony could be held on a future date.

Final plans will be firmed up with Ms. Quigley. Mr. Fekete suggested Arbor Day wristbands be given to the students

Fishawack Day Update

Commissioners discussed what activity they could undertake that day. Mr. Carroll suggested the Commission set up a booth. Perhaps saplings could be given away for children to plant. Mr. Carroll offered to make the flyers for this project. Commissioners suggested reaching out to the Environmental Commission with the baby sapling idea.

On a similar matter, Mr. Fekete noted that up to 2,000 seedlings are given out by the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign.

Mr. Fekete confirmed with Mr. Barton that the Commission's budget was complete. Mr. Fekete will meet with Mr. Mariniello concerning the budget. Two dollars per person in the Borough is needed.

Continuing Education Credits and Follow-up

Mr. Fekete urged Commissioners to pursue at least one or possibly two units of credit. Please don't procrastinate until December.

Shade Tree Ordinance

Mr. Fekete reported that he has not received any news regarding this ordinance. He has asked Council Member Kass to look into this matter.

Mr. Fekete suggested James Lott, the Borough Attorney, be invited to the next Shade Tree Commission meeting. Other Commissioners agreed it would be a good idea.

On other matters, two Shade Tree Commissioners still need to be sworn in: Thomas Boyle and Christopher Jadro. The Borough Clerk's Office can be contacted on this matter.

Spring Planting

Mr. Carroll distributed a list of residents requesting tree plantings. There are 25 locations for plantings. Mr. Carroll discussed the two bids which were being pursued for these plantings. The Farm at Green Village gave a very good response. The Coviello Brothers, in Madison, still haven't submitted their quotes.

Mr. Carroll suggested White Dogwood and Pink Dogwood trees would be good plantings to have near sidewalks.

Ms. Truppo noted that sometimes homeowners make recommendations of what tree they want planted. She recalled that former Commissioner Matt Petitjean had suggested a diversity of trees.

Mr. Carroll said he was waiting to hear from the Coviello Brothers, as well as feedback from homeowners. His goal is to plant the trees by this April. Mr. Carroll will be asking the DPW to mark off where the power lines run on homeowners' properties. Once the markings are done, the Commission can contact the homeowners to confirm exactly where the tree(s) will be planted. Mr. Fekete stated that if a homeowner wants more than one tree, Commissioners should "be open" to that request.

Commissioners discussed whether homeowners could be asked to give a donation after the tree(s) have been planted. Perhaps the homeowners could be approached in September, after these plantings are done. Mr. Carroll suggested a Shade Tree Trust could be established.

After further discussion, Mr. Carroll suggested the Commission ask Borough Attorney Lott's advice on this matter when he attends a future Shade Tree meeting.

Mr. Carroll asked if the Commission could approve a budget that he could work within for these proposed 25 trees. He noted that if \$10,000 were approved, that would cover up to 30 trees.

A motion was made/seconded by Commissioners to approve \$11,500 for these plantings. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Carroll will drop a note to Mr. Mariniello informing him of the approved budget figure for the tree plantings for this year.

On other matters, Mr. Fekete discussed the Windshield Tree Survey which was recently done by a college student for the Borough. Council Member Kass is looking into this matter. The survey may have become sensitive.

Mr. Fekete brought up the tree situation on John Leberfinger's property at 24 Orchard Road. He asked Mrs. Truppo if there were any recent developments on this matter. Mrs. Truppo reported that she had invited Mr. Leberfinger to tonight's Commission meeting. Mr. Fekete suggested the Commission wait one more month on this matter. Perhaps Mr. Leberfinger's damaged tree may bloom this spring. Mr. Fekete advised Mrs. Truppo that if Mr. Leberfinger finally touches base with her, please ask him to wait a month to see how this injured tree works out. Mrs. Truppo agreed, saying this situation can be re-visited in May.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Drew had arrived. Mr. Fekete asked her to give her presentation.

Mrs. Drew distributed the Community Forestry Management Plan. She felt the public should be made aware of the safety which trees provide.

Mrs. Drew also reviewed her document: "Ideas for Education & Public Awareness of the Value of Trees".

Mrs. Drew discussed the idea of putting up banners in certain sections of the Borough, proclaiming the value of trees in our lives. She asked the Commission's permission for the following actions regarding these banners:

- 1) To obtain a graphic designer
- 2) Seek the approval of the Historic Preservation Commission
- 3) Seek the approval of the Borough Council

Mrs. Drew volunteered to draft a letter to new residents of the Borough, informing them of the value of trees. Mr. Fekete agreed, asking that these newcomers be also informed that free trees

are being offered by the Borough. Mrs. Drew also suggested that hand-outs be available at Borough Hall, giving tree alerts.

Mrs. Drew noted that she had permission from Janice Piccolo to have tree literature available at the Farmer's Market. In this way, people will be alerted to the Shade Tree Commission and its work. Mrs. Drew is willing to prepare a display for the Farmer's Market.

Mr. Fekete suggested Commissioners think over Mrs. Drew's suggestions tonight and e-mail their thoughts to her. Mrs. Drew will be e-mailing tonight's literature to absent Commissioners. She urged Commissioners to send her their feedback as soon as possible.

After further discussion, Mr. Fekete suggested the process for Mrs. Drew's projects could at least begin tonight. Mrs. Drew noted that no seed money is needed at this point. She pointed out that she could have a graphic designer create the banner to show the Borough Council and the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mrs. Drew will e-mail the banner design to Shade Tree Commissioners to review. She felt early spring would be a good time to display these banners. Mr. Carroll suggested having the banners displayed all of March and April. Mr. Fekete recommended contacting Council Member Kass about this activity.

Mrs. Drew brought up the new tree ordinance. She had a copy of the Point Pleasant tree ordinance. Mrs. Drew had met with Borough Attorney James Lott about this matter. She was informed recently that the draft ordinance was not ready yet. She pointed out that, in the past, no penalties were enforced when trees were unjustly taken down.

Mr. Fekete said he would touch base with Council Member Kass about this situation tomorrow. Mrs. Drew will attend the next Borough Council meeting. In the meantime, she will e-mail the Point Pleasant ordinance to all Shade Tree Commissioners.

Mrs. Drew and Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding more Shade Tree meetings during the year.

At 8:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 7:30 p.m., Room 313, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:



Liz Holler
Recording Secretary