

**CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
September 16, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Chairman Ken Fekete called this meeting of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m., Room 313, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Name	Present	Absent
Kenneth Fekete	X	
Patrick Carroll	X	
John Barton	X	
Marc Boisclair	X	
Thomas E. Boyle		X
Dean Wilson	X	
Christopher Jadro		X
Fran Drew		X
Tony Torello	X	
Colleen Truppo		X
Council Member Alida Kass		X

Mr. Carroll read aloud the Open Public Meetings Act. All legal notices were made for this Regular Meeting of the Borough Shade Tree Commission.

Terry Brody, a Borough resident, was present.

Meeting Open to the Public

Terry Brody, of 7 Bartow Lane, explained to the Commission that he has two trees on the right-of-way of his property. He reported that Mr. Torello of the DPW, had inspected both trees. Mr. Torello believed that the first tree was sick and the second tree was okay. Mr. Brody has observed that since Superstorm Sandy, both trees have been dropping heavy limbs. These trees are also pulling up the sidewalk on his property. His property insurance company is very concerned about this situation.

Mr. Brody noted that he has small children and is concerned about their safety with these tree limbs.

Mr. Fekete and Mr. Carroll indicated that they will read Mr. Torello's report and meet with him. Mr. Fekete said he would drive by Mr. Brody's property to look at the trees. Mr. Carroll noted that they had Mr. Brody's e-mail.

Mr. Fekete informed Mr. Brody that the next Shade Tree Meeting is on November 18, 2014. By then the Commission will have an answer for him about these trees. Mr. Brody thanked the Commission for their time.

Community Forestry Management Plan

Mr. Fekete suggested that the current plan be updated and filed. This has to be submitted by December. Former Commissioner Matt Petitjean has been contacted to please look for the previous plan.

#### Various Reports for 2015

Mr. Fekete reported on a recent phone conversation he had from Alex McCartney of the NJ Forestry Dept., Trenton. Mr. McCartney informed him that the Commission's Annual Report didn't have any Continuing Education Certificates attached to it. Mr. Fekete was sure he had sent in the necessary certificates. Commissioners decided to ask Mr. Barton about this situation when he arrives later in the evening.

#### Financial Updates

Mr. Carroll reported that the Commission has \$19,000 available for this year. The Jaycees have contributed \$500. Mr. Carroll reviewed the Commission's current expenses. There is over \$11,000 worth of trees for this fall.

#### Fall Plantings

Mr. Carroll distributed information on the four types of trees that he will be offering this fall as new plantings. He discussed these four: Japanese Selkova, Chinese Elm, Eastern Redbud, and Green Hawthorn. Mr. Carroll will be working with residents on the type of tree that they want and which tree would be a good match for their property.

Commissioners discussed which landscaper to deal with for fall plantings. Mr. Carroll recommended DeMartini Landscaping.

Mr. Carroll suggested that at holiday time, the Commission could send notices to the residents who had received new plantings. The notice could ask for a donation for future plantings. He'll draft up a notice for Commissioners to review at the next meeting. Mr. Boisclair offered to work on an announcement about the tree plantings to be put on the Borough website.

At 8:25 p.m. John Barton arrived at the Commission meeting.

Mr. Fekete told Mr. Barton about his phone call with Alex McCartney concerning the missing information. Mr. Barton recalled that at an earlier date he had sent all the information to Mr. McCartney. He had even received a confirmation from Mr. McCartney stating that all the necessary information had been received. Mr. Barton said he will now send Mr. McCartney an e-mail copy of this earlier confirmation. Mr. Barton also has a PDF print-out of all the information he had sent to Mr. McCartney's office.

#### Education – Credits & Core Training

Commissioners reviewed the number of credits they have earned thus far. Three more credits are needed.

#### Borough 2015 Calendar

Mr. Fekete offered to coordinate this project. He asked if the Commissioners had any suggestions for the Calendar. Mr. Fekete also asked if Commissioners wanted to continue their usual meeting schedule for the new year. No one objected. Mr. Fekete said he would then give these calendar responses to Mrs. Baldwin and Ms. Kline in the Borough Clerk's Office.

#### Member Participation and Attendance

Mr. Fekete asked whether or not there should be guidelines for Commissioners, particularly concerning attendance and participating in Commission projects. He would like more Commissioners to become truly involved. Perhaps actual assignments should be given out to Commissioners in the future.

Mr. Boisclair asked Mr. Fekete what he felt was the minimum number of meetings a Commissioner should attend. Mr. Fekete felt at least four meetings should be required, even though a mandatory number of meetings probably cannot be enforced.

Mr. Barton suggested asking Commissioners to e-mail their RSVP whether they are planning to attend a meeting. They could be reminded of the date and times of upcoming meetings.

Mr. Carroll offered to e-mail Calendar reminders to Commissioners who have Outlook. He'll do each one individually.

#### Ordinance Revision

Commissioners discussed the question of who is really responsible for Borough trees and trees on private property. Mr. Boisclair would like to separate Borough trees from private trees in the ordinance. Mr. Fekete suggested Commissioners should go into the current tree ordinance and polish up what is currently in place.

Mayor Harris, who stopped briefly in the meeting, reminded Commissioners that there are two separate ordinances: 1) An ordinance regarding the Shade Tree Commission, and 2) An ordinance for tree removal. Mayor Harris recommended that the Commissioners, when they review these two ordinances, they should ask themselves "does this make sense to me?"

This matter will be revisited at the next meeting.

The meeting minutes of the August 6, 2014 Shade Tree Meeting were approved.

At 9:20 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on November 18, 2014, 7:30 p.m. in Room 313, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

*Liz Holler*

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary