

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
November 18, 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. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

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	

Terry Brody, a resident at 7 Bartow Lane, was present.

7 Bartow Avenue Trees

Mr. Fekete confirmed with Mr. Brody that the DPW has taken down the first tree as requested. As of this date, the second tree still remains. The second tree on his (Mr. Brody’s) property has caused an unsafe condition with the sidewalks. Mr. Fekete will be contacting Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer, about this sidewalk situation.

Mr. Brody noted that the second tree has no visible signs of illness, but it’s touching the power lines above. He has small children and large limbs fall from this tree even during normal winds. This tree is also unsafely intruding on his sidewalk. Mr. Brody had photos of these conditions to show Commissioners.

Mr. Fekete said he would contact Tony Torello at the DPW and try to resolve this issue. He will send Mr. Brody a copy of his communications with Mr. DeNave.

Mr. Carroll suggested to Mr. Brody that he also contact JCP & L about the power line situation with this tree.

2015 Organizational Meeting

Mr. Fekete asked Commissioners to give serious thought as to what projects they would like to undertake in the New Year. Also, minimum requirements for Commission membership must be put in place. Mr. Fekete also encouraged Commissioners to consider serving as officers on the Commission.

Forestry Management Plan

Mr. Barton reviewed all the updates he had made to the Forestry Plan. He would welcome any comments from Commissioners.

Jaycees' Christmas Tree Sale

Mr. Boisclair reported that he has talked with Jaycee Bill Heap. The sale will probably take place in early December. Mr. Fekete suggested an article announcing the sale could be put on the Borough website. Mr. Boisclair and Mr. Carroll offered to do the graphics. Photos can be used from last year sale's press release. On the Shade Tree website, Mr. Barton suggested temporarily removing the Commission's free tree ad, and replacing it with an ad for the Tree Sale.

CORE Training

Mr. Fekete reported that one member of the Commission and two Borough employees have taken CORE training. The State of New Jersey provides the necessary material. Mr. Fekete offered to track down this material. It would be prudent to have additional Commission members complete CORE training.

Borough Hall Plantings

Mr. Carroll reported that the two existing cherry trees at Borough Hall are dying. Unfortunately, there are more Borough Hall landscaping needs on the horizon. The Commission is over-budgeted as it is. Mr. Fekete felt that only one or two trees could be done at this time.

Annual Report Filing

Mr. Fekete noted that the Commission had filed their annual report last February. In July, Alex McCartney of the NJ Forestry Dept. had informed him that the Annual Report was filed late and that certain attachments had been missing from the report. The attachments were then sent to Mr. McCartney. Now everything has been approved for the 2013 report. Unfortunately, Mr. Fekete is unable to update the Shade Tree Commission website with this document. Mr. Fekete and Council Member Kass decided that Mr. McCartney should confirm his approval in writing.

Mr. Fekete pointed out that Janice Piccolo, the Borough Administrative Assistant, was coordinating this particular project. Mr. Barton suggested that in the future the Commission itself should undertake this filing.

Fall Planting

Mr. Carroll reported that the Commission has put 31 trees in the ground for residents. The program will continue in the spring. DeMartinis Landscaping did the plantings. The men left a tag on each tree, giving instructions to the homeowner on caring for the tree. Mr. Carroll also noted that two new trees have been planted at the Chatham Library.

Tree Ordinance Revision

Mr. Fekete suggested the Commission tackle the ordinance in January. Mr. Boisclair pointed out the two courses in the ordinance: 1) Private trees and 2) Public trees.

Council Member Kass noted that the Borough Council will do the private tree section. Borough Attorney Lott will help with this topic.

On other matters, Council Member Kass and the Commissioners discussed the proposed Shade Tree banners. Mrs. Drew reported that the Historic Preservation Commission has approved the banners. Council Member Kass said she would check on the status of the Shade Tree Commission's budget with regard to these banners. Mrs. Drew can then give a presentation to the Borough Council about the banners. Mr. Carroll noted that if the Council approves of the banners, they can be designated as a Shade Tree item for education.

Miscellaneous Items

The Shade Tree Commission's meeting minutes of September 16, 2014 were approved.

On other matters, Mrs. Drew reported on the Shade Tree State Federation convention she had recently attended. She showed a number of interesting items she had brought back, including a pamphlet entitled: "Top 10 Reasons Why We Need Trees". Perhaps copies could be made and distributed at town events. Mrs. Drew offered to draft a letter for the Chatham Newcomers Club introducing the Shade Tree Commission.

Mrs. Drew will be receiving certificates, showing credits for all the classes she had attended at the convention.

Before adjourning, Commissioners discussed the Boar Ash situation on local trees, and the price of treatment.

At 9:05 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Room 313, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary