

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

March 17, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Chairman Patrick Carroll called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Patrick Carroll (Chrmn.)	X	
John Barton	X – arrived at 7:45 p.m.	
Fran Drew	X	
Marc Boisclair	X	
Colleen Truppo	X	
Kenneth Fekete	X	
Christopher Jadro	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
Tony Torello	X	
Thomas E. Boyle	X	
Council Member Alida Kass	X – arrived at 8:50 p.m.	

Public Comment

No one came forward.

Resolution #15-06

The amended meeting minutes of February 12, 2015 were approved.
The meeting minutes of November 18, 2014 were also approved.

Liaison Reports

Update on the Council Meeting concerning Banners and Fundraising & Update on the 2015 Final Budget

Council Member Kass was not present at this point in the meeting. Mr. Carroll gave the report. He noted that the Commission was asking permission from the Council to raise private money. Also, the Commission had asked the Council's permission to put up banners around town. The voting on these two requests took place. At the Council meeting, Council Member Kass had suggested there should be rules governing the posting of town banners. A vote was taken to approve establishing regulations of the posting of town banners. Janice Piccolo is currently working on a policy for the banners. Mrs. Piccolo has informed Mr. Carroll that there are 50 possible locations in the Borough to put up banners. Mr. Carroll felt that it was just a matter of time until the Commission receives the Borough's official permission to put up the banners.

Mr. Carroll noted that the Borough Council gave permission to the Shade Tree Commission to raise private funds.

Returning to the banner situation, Mrs. Drew commented that the Borough Council had plenty of time to consider the Commission's banner project. The banner project had been presented at a December Council meeting. Mrs. Drew suggested that the Commission should remind the Borough Council of what the Commission is trying to accomplish.

Commissioners discussed the article about the banners in a recent article by the Independent Press. Mr. Fekete felt that Council Member Kass, at the reported Council Meeting, had made a poor choice of words about these banners. He believed Council Member Kass, who is the Shade Tree Liaison, should instead be championing the Shade Tree Commission's proposals.

Mr. Carroll agreed that the Council should be reminded of what the Shade Tree Commission's goals and past accomplishments. He suggested a Shade Tree representative(s) give a presentation at one of the Borough Council's July meetings, after Fishawack and Arbor Day activities. Mr. Carroll could then remind the Council what the Commission has achieved the first half of the year.

Update on Arbor Day Activities

Mr. Jadro noted that last year Roseanne Maraziti had given a phenomenal presentation to the students at Washington Ave. School. Mr. Jadro said that Mrs. Maraziti is willing to do the presentation again this coming Arbor Day, if the school gives the green light.

Mr. Carroll noted that Mayor Harris has to still sign a resolution for Arbor Day.

Update on Spring Planting

Mr. Carroll and Mr. Wilson had worked on this project. Mr. Carroll passed around a list of trees that were considered. He reported that 30 trees are being requested. Five residents still have to respond with their tree responses. Mrs. Drew suggested that the Commission have photos available for the public to look at these trees for Spring Planting.

Mr. Carroll hopes that by the end of this month, or the beginning of the next month, all the Spring plantings should be ready to be put into the ground.

Update on Ash Borer

Mr. Torello had no real updates at this time. He is waiting for the operating budget to be finalized. Once that is finalized, John Linson, the Borough's certified tree expert, will be called. Mr. Linson will survey all the Borough ash trees and will give his recommendations. Mr. Linson will start inspecting the trees in May. After Mr. Linson's inspections, a report can be presented to the Borough Council. Mr.

Linson didn't feel the Borough trees were in any danger of EAB this year.

Mrs. Drew said she could find photos of what the bark and leaves of an ash tree looks like when diseased by EAB, so residents can check their own ash trees. Mr. Torello said DeMartini will do a free flyer of what AEB looks like. These flyers will be available at the Shade Tree Commission table. Mr. Torello noted treatment for public trees infected by EAB, will be paid by the Borough. Who pays for treatment of privately owned trees infected by EAB would have to be decided by the Borough Council.

Updated Tree Ordinance

Mr. Carroll reported that he and Council Member Kass had met on this matter. He and Council Member Kass agreed that Borough Attorney Lott should be involved in these decisions. Once the Shade Tree Commission decides collectively on the necessary policies, Attorney Lott can help construct the correct legal language. Hopefully, before the next meeting, Mr. Carroll will send something to Commissioners to mull over.

Mrs. Drew asked to comment on the matter of public trees and private trees. She pointed out that our neighboring towns of Summit, Maplewood, and Millburn have legal, strong ordinance that cover both public and private trees. Mrs. Drew showed a book that she had obtained from the NJ Shade Tree Federation: "Laws for NJ Trees". It gives valuable information for Shade Tree Commissions. Mrs. Drew gave some quotations from the book. This book may be helpful when the Shade Tree Commission gives their presentation to the Borough Council.

Mr. Carroll noted that this topic will be re-visited at the next Commission meeting after he hears back from Attorney Lott.

Education Update

Mr. Fekete reported that at least eight more credits are needed. If each Commissioner earns at least one credit, the requirements will be met. He urged Commissioners not to wait until November or December to take a course. A Core Session will be held in mid-April.

Need to file Community Forestry Program by 12/31/15

Mr. Carroll noted that the Commission needs to file a Community Forestry Report by the end of the year. Mr. Barton had supplied the necessary paperwork. Mr. Carroll and Mr. Barton will work together on this matter.

On other matters, Mr. Boisclair reported that Sustainable Jersey for Chatham Borough is now chaired by Len Resto. Mr. Boisclair will be sharing a packet with Mr. Resto, which was put together by Borough Intern Elizabeth Gill. Mr. Barton stated that he has made good progress on the Community Forestry report. This will be included the Sustainable Jersey submission. Mr. Barton asked for a copy of Brian Goldstein's Tree & Fire Hydrant Inventory. Commissioners believed that the DPW had a copy.

Mr. Boisclair brought up the overall budget and matching funds. Mr. Carroll pointed out that there is grant money to be had. Mrs. Piccolo had mentioned to him that \$3,000 grant money available. Mr. Carroll reported that TD Bank has a grant, up to \$25,000. that they award on an annual basis. TD is looking to get behind big tree initiatives of various towns. Perhaps, with this grant, more small plantings could be done in the Borough, particularly behind the Library.

Update on Fishawack

Mr. Boisclair mentioned the possibility of the Commission holding a raffle on Fishawack Day. Perhaps DeMartini can offer a gift certificate. Such a raffle would draw people to the Shade Tree Commission booth as well as reminding them of Shade Tree activities.

Mr. Carroll reported that he paid the \$25 fee to reserve a Fishawack booth for the Commission. Commissioners will have to staff it. Commissioners discussed what could be featured at the booth. Mr. Carroll offered to make copies of an Arbor Day brochure. Mrs. Drew said her sister, Rosanne Maraziti, is willing to do a children's activity at the Shade Tree booth. Mrs. Drew may have additional interesting hand-outs for the public. Maybe a contest could be held, guessing the number of acorns in a jar. Mrs. Drew asked Commissioners to e-mail either her or Mr. Carroll with any suggestions they may have for their Fishawack booth. The booth space will measure 10 ft. by 10 ft. The location of the booth hasn't been assigned yet. Commissioners discussed possible giveaways for the booth.

Mrs. Truppo pointed out that the signage for the booth is important in flagging people's attention. Mr. Fekete noted that past Chairman Matt Pettitjean has an attractive banner.

Before adjourning for the evening, the Commissioners discussed Mary Ann Ivers' Independent Press article about the Commission's banners. Mr. Boisclair felt this article was not necessarily accurate. Mr. Fekete gave Council Member Kass a copy of the article.

Regarding the Tree Ordinance, Council Member Kass felt that the only aspect that needed to be resolved is how the Construction Office and the Commission should interact with regard to public trees. If a proposed construction project were to impact a public tree, a certain process needs to be decided on. The Shade Tree Commission should decide on this policy. Ultimately, the Borough Council will vote on it.

This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

At 8:35 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary