

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
January 20, 2015 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Ken Fekete called this Reorganization 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

Reorganization Resolutions

The following resolutions were unanimously approved by voice vote by all Commission members present:

Resolution #15-01: Establishing the 2015 Meeting Schedule for the Borough Shade Tree Commission

Resolution #15-02: Designating the Official Newspapers for the Publication of Legal Notices

Resolution #15-03: This resolution was temporarily tabled.

Resolution #15-04: Resolution approving the Meeting minutes of November 18, 2014.

Public Comment:

The Chmura Family of 8 Bartow Lane was present: Kenneth, Susan, and daughter Chris.

Chris Chmura gave a statement opposing the possible removal of her neighbor's tree at 7 Bartow Lane. Nine trees have already been taken down on Bartow Lane.

Mr. Fekete reported that he had visited the tree in question. He described its appearance. Mr. Fekete noted that the base of the tree is very tight against the sidewalk. He was very concerned about the utility lines running in close proximity to the branches. Mr. Fekete felt these lines would create liability issues in the future.

Mr. Torello read aloud John Linsome's (certified tree expert) report on the tree. In summary, Mr. Linsome felt that it was basically a good tree.

Mr. Fekete suggested the Commission members consider all the issues and take a vote on whether or not the tree should remain.

Mrs. Chmura explained that her house seriously needs the shade this tree provides.

Mr. Torello re-read Mr. Linsome's report. He explained to the Commissioners what a Class 2 Tree signifies.

Miss Chmura made a final statement. In summary, she felt the benefits of this tree at 7 Bartow Lane outweighed the negatives.

A motion was made/seconded to keep the tree at 7 Bartow Lane in place but have a Class 2 pruning done on it as per John Linsome's recommendations. The motion was unanimously approved by all Commissioners present.

Before departing, Mr. Chmura questioned why the Borough didn't plant more trees in town.

Mr. Carroll explained that the Shade Tree Commission didn't have enough money in its budget to fulfill all the residents' requests for new trees.

The Chmura Family thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Commissioners then returned to Resolution #15-03: Appointment of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Recording Secretary for the Calendar Year 2015.

A brief election was held for the Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission. Both Patrick Carroll and Francis Drew's names were nominated for Chairman. A straw poll was taken. Mr. Carroll received the majority.

Outgoing Chairman Fekete thanked Liz Holler for her help this past year. Ms. Holler will remain as Recording Secretary.

Mr. Carroll thanked Mr. Fekete for his dedicated tenure as Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission.

John Barton was elected as Vice Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission for 2015.

2015 Goals

Mr. Carroll reviewed each Goal and which Commissioner would undertake it:

Shade Tree Education – Ken Fekete

Public Education – Fran Drew Fishawack Day – Patrick Carroll

Public Relations – Marc Boisclair

Annual Report – John Barton

Plantings – Patrick Carroll & Dean Wilson

Arbor Day - Chris Jadro

Mr. Carroll brought up that the Commission could have a booth this Fishawack Day.

Financials 2014

Mr. Carroll reported that the Commission has used up their budget. Mr. Fekete has requested additional money for this new year. He suggested the Commission decide on the amount needed for Spring plantings. Mr. Carroll reported that over 20 residents have requested trees. The Commission just needs to vote on a dollar amount and then approach the Borough CFO, Mr. Day.

A motion was made/seconded to allocate \$14,000 for Spring Plantings to run from mid-March through April. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Banners

Mrs. Drew reported that she had presented this proposed project to the Borough Council. She had sample banners created. Mrs. Drew received a quote for 12 banners. She had also received approval from the Historic Preservation Commission for the display of the banners.

Mrs. Drew noted that the Borough Council has to give their approval that donations for these banners could be solicited. She said she had no problems approaching people for donations.

Mr. Carroll commented, in his opinion, that if the Commission ever received additional money from the Council, he would like to spend it on planting more trees for residents.

After further discussion, a motion was made/seconded to seek Borough Council approval to solicit donations allowing the Shade Tree Commission to fund various projects such as, but not limited to Tree Plantings and the Education Banner Program. A voice vote was taken. The motion passed.

Commissioners noted that the next Borough Council meeting would be held on Monday night, January 26th.

Update on Ash Borer – Tony Torello

Mr. Torello reported that he had given the Borough Council a presentation on this matter. He noted that John Linsome, the Borough's professional arborist recommended that the Borough should not treat ALL Ash trees, just the ones that stand a good chance of surviving. Mr. Linsome will do a survey on the trees.

Mr. Torello will give another report to the Borough Council on February 9th.

A motion was made/seconded that the Shade Tree Commission support the DPW recommendation to allocate \$25,000 for the treatment and/or pruning/tree removal of Ash trees to protect the Borough against EAB.

Mr. Carroll and Mr. Boisclair will also attend the Borough Council on February 9th.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Boisclair offered to design a Facebook page for the Shade Tree Commission.

Before adjourning, Mr. Chmura suggested developing a tree nursery at the Community Gardens. Commissioners felt that was a good idea, but a better tree growing location in the Borough should be found. Mr. Boisclair suggested the Community Bee Garden or other sections of River Road for such a nursery.

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

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Room 313.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary