

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
 Tuesday, November 15, 2016 7:30 p.m.

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                     |        |
| Fran Drew                      | X                     |        |
| Colleen Truppo                 | X – arrived 7:35 p.m. |        |
| Ken Fekete                     | X                     |        |
| Christopher Jadro              | X                     |        |
| Kristy Chmura                  | X                     |        |
| Dean Wilson                    | X                     |        |
| Tony Torello                   |                       | X      |
| Council Member James Collander |                       | X      |

Public Comment

Barbara Bennett, 15 Oliver St., returned to the Commission concerning the Borough Tree on her property that has become messy and problematic. Ms. Bennett now reports that baby trees are starting to sprout around this Borough tree. She cannot pull up these baby trees because of the strong root system. Limbs continue to fall off the tree. Other limbs are extending into nearby power lines. A neighbor on Oliver Street was also present to confirm what was happening with this tree.

Mrs. Drew reported that her sister, Rosanne, has tried to identify the tree. Mrs. Drew offered to bring volunteers to remove the stubborn baby trees that have sprung up. She would like to see this Borough tree saved.

Commissioners discussed what type of tree it was. Chrmn. Carroll commented that there was something growing on the bark. He also believed that the maple tree next to Ms. Bennett’s tree is also having problems possibly as a result of some storm damage.

Chrmn. Carroll and Ms. Chmura suggested having John Linson look at both trees and give his opinion.

Chrmn. Carroll noted that the Commission has two options to choose from:

- 1) Take a vote on whether or not to take the tree down
- 2) Ask John Linson, the arborist, to take a look at the trees and give his opinion to the Commission

Mrs. Truppo made a motion to ask Mr. Linson to take a look at Ms. Bennett's Borough tree. Mrs. Drew Seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Chrmn. Carroll apologized to Ms. Bennett for the delay on her tree situation. Mrs. Drew will also take another look at the problem tree. Chrmn. Carroll said that Mr. Linson will be asked to look at both trees on Ms. Bennett's property. This matter will carry to the Commission's agenda for January 17.

#### Resolution #16-09

The minutes of the September 20, 2017 and the November 1, 2016 Shade Tree meetings were approved. Some minor corrections were made on the November 1<sup>st</sup> minutes.

#### Pending Business

##### Tree Planting Update

Chrmn. Carroll reported that 51 trees will be planted next week. A number of them will be Red Oaks.

Mrs. Drew offered to write an article on these tree plantings for the local newspapers/websites.

#### Budget Review

Chrmn. Carroll reported that the Commission has come in under budget on the Emeral Ash Tree (EAB) Treatment. The savings from the EAB treatment will go towards the planting of trees. The Jaycee's donation, \$1,000, can be rolled into next year.

#### The Schedule for the 2017 Commission meetings

Commissioners approved of keeping their meeting schedule to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday night of every odd month at 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall. If additional meetings

need to be held throughout the new year, notices will be made, in a timely fashion, with the help of the Borough Clerk.

#### Liaison Report

Council Member Collander had to participate in another Borough meeting tonight.

#### Continuing Education

Mr. Fekete reported that Mrs. Drew's recent attendance at courses, the Commission is now well over the required amount of credits that were needed. Mrs. Drew will send the certificates she earned to Mr. Fekete. He will forward them on to Trenton.

#### The Commission's January 17, 2017 Reorganization Meeting

Mrs. Truppo volunteered to run the Reorganization Meeting, since Chrmn. Carroll and Vice Chrmn. Barton will no longer be on the Commission.

#### Liberty Park's Red Oak

As per Mr. Falzarano's request, Chrmn. Carroll distributed John Linson's letter dated September 23, 2016 regarding the condition of the Red Oak tree that was planted some 40 years ago in the small park between the beginning of Lafayette Ave. and the CVS Plaza. Mr. Linson noted that the tree has been adversely affected by road salt contamination, pedestrian soil compaction and impacts from the nearby traffic intersection. Mr. Linson recommended removing this tree and replanting a new Red Oak tree pursuant to the Hall's Garden Center new landscaping plan.

Mrs. Truppo suggested that the Commission should approve Mr. Linson's recommendations.

Commissioners discussed using some of their budget money to help with plantings at Liberty Park. They discussed what types of trees may be suitable in this park setting.

Chrmn. Carroll asked, taking a hand vote, how many Commissioners were in favor of taking the current Red Oak tree down and following Mr. Linson's instructions. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Taking another hand vote, Chrmn. Carroll asked for all those Commissioners in favor of planting one or more trees, either a similar Red Oak, a tulip tree or

evergreen tree, using the balance of the Shade Tree Commission budget. All Commissioners present voted in favor of that action.

#### Status Report – Shade Tree Ordinance

Mrs. Drew reported that she and Ms. Chmura have attempted to contact Council Member Collander both before and after Election Day. No response has been received as yet, so Mrs. Drew and Ms. Chmura will continue their work on the ordinance.

#### Shade Tree Banners

Mrs. Drew held up some sample tree banners that the Commission had designed and approved months ago. It is hoped that these banners will be on display from Arbor Day to June 23<sup>rd</sup> when the Farmer's Market begins. The Chatham Historical Society has heartily approved of these banners and their placement. Mrs. Drew believed that the banner manufacturer has given a quote of \$98 for each banner. She noted that the DPW has the brackets needed to display them.

A motion was made/seconded that the Commission approved the display of these banners, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Borough Council. All Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Drew will touch base with Council Member Collander about presenting this banner display idea to the Borough Council. Chrmn. Carroll suggested Mrs. Drew and Ms. Chmura touch base with Janice Piccolo who coordinates the banner display rotation in the Borough. Also, Ms. Kline, the Borough Clerk, could be consulted about the necessary resolution and a vote must be taken at the Borough Council meeting.

#### Future Tree Planting

Mr. Wilson reported that Tamke Tree Experts have been looking at small trees to plant under the high tension wires. Tamke has suggested a Small White Fringe Tree, which grows 12 feet to 20 feet. This tree requires little pruning. Mr. Wilson suggested the Commission consider planting this species of tree.

Chrmn. Carroll stated that he will make arrangements with Ms. Kline, the Borough Clerk, to field the requests for tree plantings. Once the Commission decides on what types of trees to plant, then Ms. Kline could inform residents what types of trees were available to plant. Chrmn. Carroll recommended that only medium-sized trees be planted by sidewalks. Larger trees can be planted where there are no sidewalks or high tension wires overhead.

Chrmn. Carroll noted that Mr. Torello, the DPW Director, suggested that the Commission do only one planting. It should take place in the fall.

#### Tips on Tree Care

Ms. Chmura noted that she had offered to create a list of tips on caring for a tree. Chrmn. Carroll suggested that the Borough Clerk could be asked to put these tips on the Borough website. The website “Tap into Chatham” could also be asked to feature these tips.

On other matters, Chrmn. Carroll reminded Commissioners that Borough Clerk Robin Kline has a copy of the official signed Arbor Day Ordinance, should it be needed.

Mr. Barton reminded Commissioners that their Annual Report for the Borough is due the end of January. The Tree City submission is due the end of March. Chrmn. Carroll pointed out that the Tree City badge can be installed on the Borough entrance sign near Brooklake Road.

Commissioners thanked Pat Carroll for all his hard work on the Shade Tree Commission and serving as their Chairman. Our best wishes to the Carroll Family in their new home.

At 8:14 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary