

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 20, 20167:30 p.m.

Chairman Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m., in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Borough Hall. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Chrmn. Colleen Truppo	X	
Christopher Jadro		X
Fran Drew	X	
Ken Fekete	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
Kristy Chmura		X
Ken Chmura	X	
Thaddeus Kobylarz	X	
Tony Torello	X	
Council Member James Collander		X

Public Comments

Diane Conlan, of 22 Garden Ave., was present. Mrs. Conlan is a life-long Borough resident and former Shade Tree Commissioner.

Mrs. Conlan expressed concerns about the number of trees being taken down, especially in her neighborhood, Garden Avenue. Two more houses have been demolished in her section of town. She and Mrs. Drew had taken photos of six healthy trees that were taken down near her home. Mrs. Conlan stated that she'd like some kind of ordinance in place to prevent the removal of beautiful trees like these. If a tree is removed on private property, she would like a promise from the property owner to re-plant a tree costing \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Mrs. Conlan explained that the huge construction cranes needed to set the pre-formed basements in the homes under construction, require a massive amount of room to successfully operate. That could be the reason why so many healthy trees had to be removed.

Chrmn. Truppo reminded her that the Shade Tree Commission only has jurisdiction over public trees, not private trees. However, she is very aware of residents' concerns regarding the excessive removal of trees on private property.

Mrs. Conlan asked how far from the center of a town street to the property line, is it considered Borough property?

Mr. Torello answered 22 feet.

Mrs. Conlan confirmed with Mr. Torello from the curb in, it would be 7 feet.

She then believed the trees taken down were Borough trees.

Regarding this tree removal situation, Ms. Truppo felt it would be a good idea for the Commission to become familiar with how the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment functions and their responsibilities. Mr. Fekete suggested inviting members of these two Boards to a Commission meeting.

Mr. Fekete questioned where these two Boards got their authority, particularly when it came to allowing trees to be removed.

Mr. Chmura pointed out the number of trees that had been taken down in the western section of town, as reported by Mrs. Conlan. The Commission should be notified which trees are proposed to come down, and if they are private trees or Borough trees. Mr. Chmura believed some of these removed trees were Borough trees.

Chrmn. Truppo said she could contact Carrie Sargeant and ask what has been the Department of Forestry's experience with a municipal board superseding a Shade Tree Commission's authority.

Summing up, Chrmn. Truppo made a list of these concerns to ask Council Member Collander when they meet in the near future.

Ms. Truppo thanked Mrs. Conlan for sharing her concerns with the Commission.

Mr. Chmura asked Chrmn. Truppo how could the Commission get the State and the County to put up more trees. He pointed out that the eastern end of Main Street, the true historical stretch of Main Street, has a definite lack of trees.

On other matters, Mrs. Drew recommended the Mayor and Borough Council be urged to have wiring be put underground.

Mr. Fekete suggested perhaps underground wiring could be a requirement for all new construction in the Borough.

Chrmn. Truppo asked Mrs. Drew to put together examples of towns that require underground wiring.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 16, 2017 Shade Tree Commission meeting were approved by the Commission.

Update from Borough Council Liaison Collander on the status of the STC presentation to the Borough Council

Chrmn. Truppo noted that she and Vice Chrmn. Jadro had originally been asked to give the presentation that she had given at the last Commission meeting. This presentation had been scheduled for the June 12th Borough Council meeting. Seeing that efforts had been made concerning trees on private property, Council Member Collander had recommended that the STC

presentation be postponed until the entire tree issue is combined and ready to be presented to the Borough Council.

Chrmn. Truppo brought up a point made recently by Council Member Collander, that it is difficult and awkward for the Borough Council to deal with very sensitive issues during the summer months. Many residents who want to give their input are away on vacation during those months. Council Member Collander had strongly urged that the Commission give a unified presentation on their tree ordinance issues, in the fall, when everyone, both residents and Commissioners, are back in town.

Mr. Torello felt that John Linson's presence and input would be very important for this presentation.

Mr. Kobylarz noted the Commission's concern about how long it would take to give the presentation. Perhaps a limit should be established.

Chrmn. Truppo and Mrs. Drew suggested a date in September. After further discussion, most of the Commissioners agreed that September would be the goal for their STC presentation.

Update on the STC at Woodlands Camp

Chrmn. Truppo reported on the tree identification tour that she and Ms. Chmura will be taking the campers on around town. The campers will be elementary school age. The children will also be doing some bark-rubbing.

Mrs. Drew suggested photos and a press release be done of this tree tour.

Chrmn. Truppo showed some of the tree oriented giveaways that the children on the tour will be given. Ms. Chmura will have a game or two to play with the children. Perhaps this tree tour could be given as an annual event for local children. Mr. Kobylarz suggested the Library or Recreation Dept. would be interested in such a tour. Chrmn. Truppo suggested a self-guided local tree tour could be organized. Also, she has touched base with local churches to see if they had any historic trees on their properties.

Commissioners discussed how to obtain additional funding, beyond what was in their budget amount. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the Commission used money from last year for a tree at Liberty Park.

Mr. Wilson will touch base with Sam Sealey, a Borough resident and Chatham fireman, who has expertise on this particular funding subject.

Mr. Kobylarz pointed out that Boy Scouts looking for an Eagle Scouts projects, may be helpful in this fundraising endeavor.

Tree banner request

Mrs. Drew reported that the Chairman of the Manasquan Shade Tree Commissioner would like to have tree banners up in his town. She has checked that the brackets work fine on the

Manasquan light poles. Mrs. Drew pointed out that the tree banners have been taken down recently from the Chatham Borough poles. The Manasquan Chairman is willing to purchase his own brackets and hopefully borrow some of Chatham Borough's tree banners. He is willing to pay for some of the banners.

Mrs. Drew felt that it would be a good idea for the Commission to share *some* of their banners, not all of them. She was willing to put the money up if something happens to the banner. Mrs. Drew asked if at least 4 banners could be lent to Manasquan.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the banners are Borough property. The banners came to a total of \$1500. She felt the attorney's fees to draft a shared banner agreement would be very high.

Mr. Chmura suggested as an alternative to sharing the banners to Manasquan, to work towards sharing tree knowledge between the two towns instead. Possibly other items could be shared in the future.

Mrs. Drew agreed to ask the Manasquan Chairman to come visit a Chatham Shade Tree Commission.

Summer Meeting Schedule

To help deciding their summer meeting schedule, Commissioners reviewed what outstanding issues needed their immediate attention. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the fall tree planting program needs to be organized. The Commission took an informal poll of which Commissioners were available in July and in August.

A motion was made/seconded to cancel the Shade Tree Commission meeting that had been scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 7:30 p.m., however the Shade Tree Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m. will still be held. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Chrmn. Truppo will notify Robin Kline, the Borough Clerk, about this cancellation. Ms. Kline will be asked to prepare and post the required cancellation notices.

Fall Planting Schedule

Chrmn. Truppo reported that she will be meeting with John Linson, the Borough Arborist, tomorrow. She noted that this current year a windshield survey of Borough trees must be done. Chrmn. Truppo suggested that Mr. Linson be asked to organize a planting plan for the fall.

Chrmn. Truppo suggested that the Commission form a subcommittee to focus on the Fall Planting. Pricing needs to be done. Mr. Kobylarz offered to serve on this subcommittee.

At 9:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary