

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 19, 20187:30 p.m.

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

Name	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X	
Fran Drew	X	
Ken Fekete		X
Dean Wilson	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Council Member James Collander		X
John Tortorella	X	
Tony Torello, Shade Tree Enforcement Officer		X

Also present,
Karen Koronkiewicz, an interested resident

Public Comment

There was none.

Administration of the Oath of Office

John Tortorella was sworn in as a Regular Member of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission.

Ms. Koronkiewicz, the visitor, expressed an interest in joining the Commission, if there was an opening. Commissioners noted that there was still an opening for an Alternate Member on the Commission if she was interested.

Motion to Adopt the Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Drew made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of May 15, 2018 as submitted. Ms. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of May 15, 2018 were unanimously approved.

New Business

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the Commission has received, by email, a request from Karen Brodsky, Director of the Library of the Chathams, concerning the future of certain trees on the Library grounds if a proposed project goes through. One of the trees which may have to be removed is a large ginkgo tree. The current handicap ramp at the Library is not compliant. The construction of the new compliant ramp would unfortunately require the removal of the ginkgo

tree. Ms. Brodsky stated in her memo that the Library is willing to replace the ginkgo tree with a new tree.

Mrs. Drew reported that she had reviewed these plans from the Library. She would like to talk more with Vince DeNave, the Borough Engineer, about these construction plans. She had specific questions. Mrs. Drew has also visited the site and talked with Director Brodsky about the ginkgo tree. Mrs. Drew believed the ginkgo tree could be transplanted.

Mrs. Drew asked that the Commission postpone their decision on the future of the two trees, particularly the ginkgo tree, until she could talk with Mr. DeNave. She wanted to know exactly how the ginkgo tree will be jeopardized by the proposed construction.

Mr. Chmura and Mr. Tortorella noted that there is no indication on the plans of the location of these two trees.

Mr. Tortorella suggested that Mr. Torello could give Commissioners some idea of the root structure of trees, like this ginkgo. There may be a chance that the roots could be easily damaged if it was moved.

Chrmn. Truppo pointed out that the Library is shared also with Chatham Township. Perhaps the Township should give their thoughts on these tree and the ramp proposals.

Mrs. Drew had the suggestion of bringing the ramp straight out in order to meet ADA standards, thus saving the tree. Unfortunately, the library's architect didn't agree with that proposal. In conclusion, Mrs. Drew felt that the data supplied by the Library was not sufficient.

Mr. Tortorella suggested that the Commission ask the Library's architect what is the basis for his conclusion that this new ramp would jeopardize the ginkgo tree. Mrs. Drew agreed with Mr. Tortorella's suggestion. She will also talk with Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer on this matter. Ms. Chmura felt that the Commission should stress to the Library that they are not recommending the whole building design be changed, just that the ramp design be modified.

Mr. Wilson made a motion that the Shade Tree Commission take the following actions:

- 1) Defer their decision on the ginkgo tree at this time
- 2) The Commission will ask the Library's architect what was the basis of his thinking that the ginkgo tree was in jeopardy with the proposed ramp
- 3) A discussion on this matter will be held with the Borough Engineer, and will inquire if there were any alternate plans to expand the handicap ramp.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Chmura. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye. The motion was approved.

Tree Banners

Chrmn. Truppo reported that she had spoken with Mr. Torello and Mrs. Piccolo at Borough Hall. Currently both the tree banners and the Farmer's Market banners are on display in the downtown area. For additional tree banner displays, she and Mr. Chmura noticed some available light poles by firehouse plaza.

Mrs. Drew recalled that originally the Commission could only afford to buy 12 banners a year or two ago. After talking with Mr. Torello, Mrs. Drew noted that eight of the 12 tree banners are still up and on display. Mrs. Drew had researched the number of Borough light poles which could display new tree banners. She reviewed what poles are available at post office plaza, South Passaic Avenue, and Main Street. Mrs. Drew concluded that there are currently 19 light poles available for tree banners. She suggested, for better visibility, that the banners be displayed over the street, not the sidewalk.

Mrs. Drew discussed the new sunbrella tree banners being made by Gates Flag Company. These new banners cost \$150 each. The brackets for these banners cost \$88 a set, Mrs. Drew urged Commissioners to obtain more banners. If possible, she would like to have the new banners installed over the street, like Madison and Summit have their banners displayed.

Chrmn. Truppo stated that she would like to find a way to display the existing tree banners that have not yet been put on display. She didn't want to buy more banners unless it was certain that they could be put up. Chrmn. Truppo noted that new brackets would still be needed.

Chrmn. Truppo concluded that she will consult with Mr. Torello about the position of the brackets – whether they should be over the sidewalk, or the street. She will also ask if the Commission obtained more brackets, would the Public Works be willing to install them.

Report of the Fishawack Festival 2018

Mr. Chmura reported that the Borough Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Commission had shared a table at the Festival. The table was at a good location. Mr. Chmura had put on the table a flyer created by Mrs. Drew. A number of visitors came by the table to talk with representatives from both Commissions. Mr. Chmura suggested this shared table arrangement be done on a continuous basis.

On other matters, Mr. Chmura gave an update on the proposed plaque for the Scarlet Oak Tree in Lum Field. He had attended a business meeting of the Chatham Historical Society. Mr. Chmura reported that he had created a draft for the plaque. Also, at this business meeting, Mr. Chmura had discussed the walking trail being created on Main Street. The trail begins at Division Ave. and Main Street, and heads east, all the way down to Shepard Kollock Park. Both the Historical Society and the Shade Tree Commission are involved with this project. Chrmn. Truppo believed this walking trail will educate people about local trees, as well as local history.

At 8:08 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The July 17, 2018 Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting has been cancelled.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary