

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 20, 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 Hall. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X	
Christopher Jadro		X
Fran Drew		X
Ken Fekete	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Council Member James Collander	X	
Tony Torello, Shade Tree Enforcement Officer		X
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comments

There were none at this time.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of February 20, 2018 were approved as amended.

Public Comment

Joe Basralian, a resident of Fairfax Terrace, Chatham Township, noted that two years ago he had conferred with former Shade Tree Commissioner, Pat Carroll, and the Washington Ave. School PTO about increasing the plantings on the school grounds. Tonight, he is asking the Commission what he and his wife can do to help facilitate planting trees at the school's new playground location.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that she had spoken with Mr. Torello, Director of Public Works, about this matter. Mr. Torello explained to her that the Board of Ed had subcontracted out to do this whole tree-planting project following whatever specifications made by the School District. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the school grounds are Board of Education property. The Shade Tree Commission does not have jurisdiction over this property; however, the Commission can provide a list of the trees recommended by the Borough arborist.

Mr. Basralian stated that he has that list. He asked who should speak to at the School District Office about this matter.

Mr. Fekete and Chrmn. Truppo suggested the Business Manager, Peter D'Aquilo.

Mr. Chmura suggested that Mr. Basralian look at the Arbor Day Foundation website for recommended trees. Chrmn. Truppo will send Mr. Basralian additional information on trees that would be suitable for the school grounds.

Review of Tree Request: 174 Weston Avenue

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the resident at 174 Weston Ave. had requested, for a second time, to have the Borough tree removed on his property. The Commission then asked Mr. Linson, the Borough Arborist, to examine the tree.

Chrmn. Truppo summarized Mr. Linson's report on the tree. Mr. Linson believed that the Swamp White Oak tree was in good condition. He suggested some pruning be done to remove some of its minor dead wood. Ideally, no construction-related encroachment should take place within the drip line of the tree. Protective fencing, placed at a radius of 12 inches from the trunk, should remain in place during the entire construction process.

Chrmn. Truppo asked that the Commission take a formal vote on what action should be taken on this tree.

Ms. Chmura made a motion to keep the Swamp White Oak tree at 174 Weston Avenue, based on the findings that it is a healthy tree.

Mr. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Chrmn. Truppo will be contacting the homeowner regarding the Board's decision.

Update on Arbor Day

Ms. Chmura distributed a flier giving information on the Arbor Day Concert Event to be held on Sunday, April 29th, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church. Ms. Chmura will be premiering some of the songs she has written. This harp concert will be recorded for future sales.

Council Member Collander will mention this concert at the upcoming Council Meeting. Ms. Chmura gave Council Member Collander copies of the fliers to distribute to the Borough Council. Commissioners offered to take fliers to hand out in the stores.

Another Arbor Day event, will be a tree-related program for children at the Library of the Chathams. The program will be open for 20 children.

It wasn't clear whether an actual tree planting will take place this Arbor Day, however, there is a possibility that new trees will be planted in the Borough in April. Chrmn. Truppo noted this will be discussed in a later agenda item.

Roots to River Grant

Chrmn. Truppo reported that this grant is offered by Sustainable Jersey. She noted that Mrs. Piccolo, the Borough's Community Services Director, and Mr. Torello were very helpful with the application process. The Commission has submitted an application asking for \$15,000.

Chrmn. Truppo discussed the two trails currently being constructed in Shepard Kollock Park – The Paved Trail and The Adventure Trail. She reviewed the required size of the trees to be planted. They must be wetland approved. The project has to be completed by July 1st. Chrmn. Truppo listed the number of civic groups that may be able to help with the plantings. The target date could be the end of April. Chrmn. Truppo suggested two planting dates be designated in case of bad weather on one of the dates.

Chrmn. Truppo felt that Stanley Park in Chatham has plenty of space for future plantings.

Chrmn. Truppo will keep Commissioners in the loop about the Roots to River Grant.

Miscellaneous

Mr. and Ms. Chmura suggested some of the Shade Tree Commission's Mission Statement be included before the Public Comment section of the Commission's agenda. Ms. Holler suggested this idea be run by the Borough Clerk.

Mr. Wilson had a Wall Street Journal article about underground wiring and the high cost involved for such installations.

Mr. Fekete asked for an update regarding any new Commissioners.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that Mr. Jadro has resigned from the Commission. She has informed Mayor Harris that three vacancies now exist on the Shade Tree Commission. Soon it may become hard for the Commission to reach quorum.

At 8:06 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary