

**CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**Reorganization and Regular Meeting**

January 15, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Colleen Truppo called this Reorganization and Regular Meeting of the Borough 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	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
John Tortorella	X	
Council Member James Collander		X
Patrick Florentino		X
Tony Torello, Shade Tree Enforcement Officer		X
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary	X	

Chrmn. Truppo read aloud the Mission Statement of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission.

Administration of Oaths of Office

Mr. Florentino was not present to be sworn in at this time. Another attempt will be made at the next STC meeting.

Public Comments

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of December 18, 2018 were approved as amended.

Reorganization Resolutions for 2019

Commissioners unanimously approved the following resolutions:

Resolution #19-01: Resolution Establishing the STC Annual Meeting Schedule for the Year 2019

Resolution #19-02: Resolution Designating the Official Newspapers for the Publication of Legal Notices for the Year 2019

Resolution #19-03: Resolution electing the Shade Tree Commission Officers for the Year 2019:

Chair: Colleen Truppo

Vice Chair: Kristy Chmura

#### Discussion Items

##### Membership Update

Chrmn. Truppo noted that unfortunately Ken Fekete is no longer a Commissioner. His new residence is not in Chatham Borough.

Chrmn. Truppo stated that Mr. Florentino will be sworn in soon as a new Commissioner. Also, another resident will soon be joining as an Alternate. There is still one more opening to fill on the Commission.

##### Annual CEUs

Chrmn. Truppo discussed core training for Shade Tree Commissioners, and what it entails. She felt that at least two Commissioners should have this training. There is money in the STC budget to finance this kind of education. Chrmn. Truppo will forward any new messages to Commissioners concerning this core training.

##### New committee on underground wires

Mrs. Drew reported that Len Resto and Council Member Kobalarz have proposed establishing a new committee to seriously look into installing wires underground in Chatham Borough.

Mrs. Drew pointed out that the Commission has been asking JCP & L for 3 or 4 years now how much it would cost to install wiring underground in Chatham. All they received were vague, discouraging answers. Mayor Harris then called JCP & L to ask them the cost of such an installation. He was told it would cost millions. Mrs. Drew then called Mayor Harris's contact at JCP & L and asked specifically how many millions in accordance to how many blocks. She was informed that it would take a long time to figure out.

Mrs. Drew reported that Council Member Kobylarz and Len Resto plan on establishing an organization to seriously look at the possibility of installing underground wiring. Mrs. Drew and Chrmn. Truppo reviewed the additional people who have been asked to serve on this committee. A meeting for this committee will probably take place between now and February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Drew strongly suggested that the Shade Tree Commission educate residents about the value of installing wires underground. Post cards could be sent to the residents about this matter. Post cards had been extremely effective when the ash borer disease needed to be brought to the attention of local residents.

Mrs. Drew also suggested that Commissioners and interested parties go down to Trenton, with signs, to demonstrate against the “Vegetation Management Response Act” when the State Senate votes on it. If the State Senate passes this bill, the governor must sign it to put the bill in effect.

Chrmn. Truppo brought up that our Congressional District has a new representative – Mikie Sherrill. She is holding “Mondays with Mikie” for her constituents. It may be a good topic to bring up to Congresswoman Sherrill.

Mr. Chmura noted that Council Member Kobylarz had recommended a coalition of communities be organized, similar to what had been organized to protest the Pilgrim Pipeline.

Mrs. Drew pointed out that there is a chance that JCP & L will give Wharton NJ a price of what it would cost to install underground wiring in their municipality. She can ask the Business Administrator of Wharton what the response was. Mrs. Drew can also find out Wharton’s population and square mileage. These factors would give some idea what an underground installation would cost Chatham Borough.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that possibly a partial plan of underground wiring could be done in the Borough. Perhaps a shared service could be done with the Borough of Madison.

Mrs. Drew said she will obtain the needed information from Wharton NJ. She is tired of electric companies being obnoxious to residents. Mrs. Drew thanked Commissioners for listening to her presentation.

On other matters, Mr. Chmura discussed the literature he had gathered at the NJ Tree Federation Conference. He reported that any tree service that operates in

New Jersey, by a recent law, a tree service company must have a licensed tree expert or tree care operator. The tree service must also report to the State on how they are training their employees. Mr. Chmura added that these tree services must be insured for a minimum of one million dollars. These tree services must have proper safety procedures in place. Unfortunately, the provisions of this law do not apply to public utility companies.

Also, in the literature that Mr. Chmura picked up, he discovered a company that had a product claiming to cure the ash yellow disease affecting trees.

Mr. Chmura discussed a brochure he had found that explained how trees in an urban environment should be cared for. It was noted in this brochure that trees, especially in urban environments, help to maintain people's mental health and physical well-being.

Mr. Chmura passed around and discussed the Arbor Day Foundation's literature entitled: "New Tools to Promote Trees".

Mr. Chmura had picked up information on how to obtain money for planting trees on State property. The Shade Tree Federation had information on affordable tree planting and maintenance in urban areas. Mr. Chmura had literature on the Spotted Lantern Fly.

Mrs. Drew brought up the possibility of obtaining more tree banners to have on display all year long. She pointed out that some poles in town, like in post office plaza, are currently not being used. Mr. Chmura suggested that Mr. Torello, Director of Public Works, be asked to identify the streets and areas where he thinks these banners could be placed. Mrs. Drew will compile a list of the available poles that could be used. She will email the list to Mr. Torello. Mrs. Drew suggested the Commission put aside some of their money for these banners.

Commissioners discussed how additional money could be raised to plant more trees in the Borough.

Ms. Chmura offered to hold another harp concert as an Arbor Day event. The concert could be held at a location where money could be raised for the Commission's projects.

Related to that idea, Charm. Truppo reported that the Chatham Library has reached out to the Commission and asked if an educational program could be done again on

trees. Chrmn. Truppo felt that the program could be done in May when more of the local trees are in bloom.

Commissioners discussed possible locations for planting trees downtown and the gazebo area, if the necessary funding was obtained. Hopefully, Public Works can help with these plantings. The tree saplings need to be stored some where.

Mr. Wilson brought up that Summit successfully stores its tree saplings. Chrmn. Truppo will check with John Linson to see how Summit handles their tree saplings.

At 8:47 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary