

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
October 20, 2020 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. This was a Virtual Meeting held by Zoom. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

| Names                             | Present | Absent |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.            | X       |        |
| Kristy Chmura, Vice Chrmn.        | X       |        |
| Fran Drew                         | X       |        |
| Dean Wilson                       |         | X      |
| John Tortorella                   |         | X      |
| Patrick Florentino                | X       |        |
| Beverly Klepper                   | X       |        |
| Tony Torello                      |         | X      |
| Council Member Karen Koronkiewicz | X       |        |
| Liz Holler, Minutes Clerk         | X       |        |

Please note: A recording of this virtual meeting was not made. The minutes came from my notes. – L. Holler

Public Notice

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Vice Chrmn. Chmura made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Shade Tree Commission meeting. Mrs. Drew seconded the motion. The September 15, 2020 STC minutes were approved.

North Summit Avenue – loss of Borough tree

Chrmn. Truppo related that one residential property on North Summit Avenue has recently undergone major demolition. Unfortunately, a beautiful Sycamore tree, a Borough tree, was removed without any Borough approval or permission. Mr. Torello then called the tree company about this matter. Neither the builder or the tree company had obtained the required permission to remove this tree.

Chrmn. Truppo talked with Mr. Williams, the Borough Administrator, and Mr. DeNave, the Zoning Officer about this matter. Mr. DeNave, who usually reviews these type of construction plans, reported that the builder has not even submitted plans yet.

Mr. DeNave informed her that he will go through and review all the paperwork on this project in the Madison Building Department. Perhaps better enforcement is needed for these type of permits.

Chrmn. Truppo felt there could be grounds to fine the tree company and the property owner \$1500 for removing this tree.

Mrs. Drew brought up an ordinance from Jackson Township. In that Township, a tree cannot be removed unless the tree company is approved by the town. She suggested the Commission look into updating their tree ordinance again. Revisions may be needed.

On other matters, Mrs. Drew gave an update on the activities of the Underground Wiring Committee.

#### STC Tree Planting Program

Chrmn. Truppo announced that Hall's Garden Center in Berkeley Heights will be working with the DPW with the tree plantings this year. Currently there are 55 trees at the DPW site waiting to be planted. Some municipal plantings will also be done.

Commissioners discussed ways to publicize the plantings of these trees. Vice Chrmn. Chmura offered to create an article with accompanying photos. Chrmn. Truppo will find out when it would be a good time to put the article on the Borough website.

Mrs. Drew suggested doing something very artistic and eye-catching showing the good works that trees do for us.

Chrmn. Truppo will talk with the Borough Clerk about the publishing of this article on the Borough website.

#### Decision on the Borough tree at 16 Chestnut

Chrmn. Truppo reported that John Linson, the Borough arborist, would like this tree to remain.

#### CEUs

Chrmn. Truppo reported that all the CEU courses are going virtual. The videos of these courses will be available for an entire year. She felt the topics were all very good.

#### Garden Park Project

Chrmn. Truppo reported that the DPW is currently doing a planting project at Garden Park. Mr. Torello has agreed with the Commission's inquiry asking if a tree could be planted in memory of Commissioner Ken Chmura at Garden Park. Mr. Torello asked Vice Chrmn. Kristy to let the DPW know what tree her father liked best. Vice Chrmn. Chmura answered that her father always mentioned the Dawn Redwood trees. Chrmn. Truppo noted that this planting will happen some time in the spring.

Returning to the tree removal situation on North Summit Ave., Mr. Florentino asked if there was any way to have the removed tree compensated?

Chrmn. Truppo answered that there can be fines imposed when Borough trees are removed without permission. Mr. DeNave will be researching the paperwork in the Madison Building

Dept. on this matter. When Mr. DeNave gets the correct facts on this project, Chrmn. Truppo will reach out to the rest of the Commission to report on his findings. Perhaps an extra STC meeting could be held to further discuss this situation.

Before adjourning, Chrmn. Truppo asked Commissioners to consider changing their meeting date to the second or fourth Tuesdays of the month, instead of the third Tuesday night. She has a conflict with her work schedule with third Tuesday nights. Perhaps a Wednesday or Thursday night could also be considered.

At 8:27 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 7:30 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary