

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

April 28, 2022

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. All Commissioners were present by way of Zoom.

Names	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Fran Drew		X
George Sweetin	X	
Dean Wilson		X
John Tortorella		X
Patrick Florentino	X	
Beverly Klepper	X	
Council Member Karen Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary		X

Chrmn. Truppo read aloud the Mission Statement.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 24th STC meeting will be reviewed at the May meeting.

Discussion Items

Chrmn. Truppo reported on the recent Girl Scout Day of Service held on April 23rd. Commissioner George Sweetin provided an excellent demonstration to all the Scouts on the correct way to plant trees. Volunteers from the Shade Tree Commission helped the Girl Scouts plant 30 bare root trees in containers. The trees in containers went to homes. The remaining trees are at the Community Garden. Chrmn. Truppo expressed thanks to Mrs. Klepper and Council Member Koronkiewicz for all their help at this Day of Service.

Chrmn. Truppo reminded Commissioners that tomorrow, April 28th, is Arbor Day. Also, all Shade Tree Commissioners are invited to the memorial tree planting for Ken Chmura at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 1st at Garden Park. Commissioners are welcome to offer their fond memories of our late commissioner, Ken Chmura.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the Borough Council issued a proclamation for Arbor Day at last Monday's Council Meeting. The Proclamation was included in the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Koronkiewicz said she will report these recent STC activities at the next Borough Council meeting.

Fishawack Day – STC Table

Chrmn. Truppo reviewed some earlier activities/donations that Commissioners had suggested for the Shade Tree Commission table. She suggested the Commissioners give out reusable bags, maybe with a tree decoration on it. Chrmn. Truppo brought up the possibility of the STC sharing a table with another group or organization or the STC can have their own an independent table. Regardless, at least one Commissioner should staff the STC designated space throughout the Festival day. The day can be broken up into two-hour shifts. Chrmn. Truppo asked Commissioners to think over what two-hour shift they would be available to work and email her which shift they could do. It's also fine if you want to email that you're unavailable that day.

Chrmn. Truppo said she will see what the response was from Commissioners to staff the STC table, before she actually sent in the paperwork to reserve a space at Fishawack. Mrs. Klepper and Council Member Koronkiewicz indicated that they were available for any shifts. Vice Chrmn. Chmura will check her schedule for that day and let Chrmn. Truppo know which shift she could do.

Miscellaneous

Chrmn. Truppo thanked Mr. Sweetin for all his work on the Girl Scout Day of Service. She noted how fortunate the Commission was to have such an experienced arborist on their team. Mr. Sweetin has been very generous with his time when Chrmn. Truppo has called him with tree questions. Mr. Sweetin thanked Chrmn. Truppo for her nice comments. He noted that it was all about teamwork.

Answering Mr. Tortorella's question about STC emails, Chrmn. Truppo explained that different Borough employees usually answer questions that are emailed to the Shade Tree Commission. Tony Torello, Leo Pietrantuono (DPW) or Liz Holler from the Borough Clerk's Office try and answer inquiries. Chrmn. Truppo recommended that Commissioners not answer these inquiries using their personal emails. It is better to answer with a Borough email address.

Mr. Sweetin asked if the STC had a logo.

Chrmn. Truppo answered no.

Mr. Sweetin offered to work on a logo for the Commission. He also discussed the possibility of giving out insulated bags at Fishawack. Mr. Sweetin had examples of good, insulated bags he has picked up at trade shows. People could be encouraged to make a donation, when they pick up one of these insulated bags, so the STC could plant more trees.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura suggested pamphlets on proper mulching be available at the STC Fishawack table. Mr. Sweetin noted that the U.S. Agriculture Department has a Tree Owner's manual. Hopefully some copies could be obtained for distribution.

Chrmn. Truppo reported on the Arbor Day contest. She and the other Commissioners gave out contest information to the Scouts during their Day of Service. The Boy Scouts will also be receiving info. Chrmn. Truppo suggested a QR code be included in the contest flyer to be distributed around town. The QR code could reveal all the instructions for the contest when scanned.

Mr. Sweetin explained the best way to send the word out about the contest to local schools, starting with the School Superintendent's office. The Superintendent first has to give his okay. Chrmn. Truppo will email Michael LaSusa, the Superintendent about the Arbor Day Contest and see what he says.

Chrmn. Truppo reminded Commissioners to keep in touch with her about their availability for the STC table on Fishawack Day. Also, May 1st, 1 p.m., there will be the tree dedication ceremony at Garden Park for Ken Chmura.

At 8:35 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be on Thursday,
May 26, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary