

## CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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. in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Borough Hall. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Chrmn. Colleen Truppo	X	
Christopher Jadro		X
Fran Drew	X	
Ken Fekete	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Thaddeus Kobylarz	X – arrived 7:41 p.m.	
Tony Torello	X – present on phone speaker at 7:39 p.m.	
Council Member James Collander		X

### Public Comment

Residents Bob and Karen Fritsch of 18 Clark St. explained how the two Locust trees (Borough trees) in front of their home are interfering with the wiring running into their house. These trees are situated close to their gas line and water line. Also, the roots from these two elderly trees have uprooted the sidewalk. Commissioners had photos of this tree situation which Mr. Fritsch had recently emailed to the minutes secretary.

Chrmn. Truppo summarized the report that the DPW had submitted concerning this tree situation at 18 Clark St. After reviewing this situation, the DPW felt that the two trees were healthy, and did not need to be removed. The DPW had just repaired the sidewalk. Chrmn. Foley noted that the recent Windshield Survey done by the Borough Arborist did not identify any concerns for 18 Clark Street.

Chrmn. Truppo offered to have the arborist, Mr. Linson, do a specific inspection of the two Locust trees, and give his opinion. If the trees inspected by Mr. Linson are deemed healthy, the Borough will most likely keep them.

Looking at the photos submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Fritsch, Commissioners discussed the existing slab and sidewalk situation. Chrmn. Truppo consulted Mr. Torello by phone. Mr. Torello, on his end, was also looking at the photos. He offered to look at the slab in question tomorrow. Judging from the photos, Mr. Torello felt that the slab had once been part of a walkway leading from the home. He believed that the DPW could easily remove it.

Mr. and Mrs. Fritsch thanked the Commission for their time and departed the meeting.

### Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of October 17, 2017 were approved as amended. Mr. Chmura abstained from voting on these minutes, because he was absent that night.

Chrmn. Truppo congratulated Mr. Kobylarz on winning a seat on the Borough Council. His term begins in the new year. Mr. Kobylarz hoped he could still remain a Shade Tree Commissioner.

### Discussion Items

#### Discussion of the tree proposals at 74 Fairview Avenue

Chrmn. Truppo referred Commissioners to the letter they had received from the Borough Arborist, John Linson, concerning his inspection of the trees within the Borough right-of-way at 74 Fairview Ave. The builder has already clear-cutted the lot. However, the DPW found that the 5 remaining trees on the property were Borough trees. Mr. Linson felt that four of the five trees are in good condition. One tree is in questionable condition.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that she had asked Mr. Linson to provide recommendations regarding any construction that would occur at this location and the protection of trees. Depending on how the Shade Tree Commission decides on this tree situation, the builder could be requested to submit a revised regrading plan to the Borough Engineer. This submission would ensure the protection of the trees on the property.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Truppo pointed out that the developer is seeking to remove all five trees on the property.

Mrs. Drew made a motion that all five trees remain on the property, and that the builder be required to protect these five trees in the course of construction, with a fencing and regrading plan to be submitted to the Borough Engineer. Mr. Fekete seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present, except for Mr. Wilson, approved the motion. Mr. Wilson abstained from voting.

#### Discussion on the tree situation at 7 Meadow Road

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the homeowner at 7 Meadow Rd. felt that the oak tree, leaning towards his house, close to his child's bedroom, was an unsafe situation. The DPW has evaluated the tree and deemed it to be safe. Mr. Linson also evaluated the tree and found the trunk to be solid. He recommended that a few dead branches could be pruned, but aside from that, Mr. Linson believed the tree is safe and sound.

Mrs. Drew made a motion to keep the oak tree at 7 Meadow Road, with trimming to be done on the dead branches. Mr. Fekete seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion.

### Stanley Park Proposal

Chrmn. Truppo summarized a letter from resident Sarah Stanley. With the consent of the Chatham Kiwanis Club, Ms. Stanley is proposing to fund the restoration of the Stanley Park sign, and also to remove the overgrown boxwood. The Borough Council wants to introduce a

resolution approving this restoration; however, first wanted approval of this project from the Shade Tree Commission. The Commission has jurisdiction over public trees and shrubs.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would actually like to see this boxwood and sign situation. He suggested why not preserve the boxwood and move the sign.

At Mr. Kobylarz's suggestion, Commissioners looked at Stanley Park by Google Earth on their cell phones.

A motion was made to allow the removal of the existing boxwood and replant a low maintenance perennial, and to offer Shade Tree Commission support of an appropriate planting. The motion was seconded. All Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion.

#### Update on the Tree Planting Program

Chrmn. Truppo reported that homeowners have now received their flags to put where they want their new trees planted. Mr. Linson had recommended the nursery who will plant the trees. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the price for the grower is equivalent to last year's; however, the trees have a larger caliber.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the leaves must drop off the trees before the new ones are planted. The trees must be dormant. This may happen in the next two weeks. Chrmn. Truppo reviewed the advice she had given to homeowners regarding the species of the trees that they select.

Commissioners discussed sections of Main Street which were in need of tree-planting. Mr. Chmura pointed out the current sparseness of trees on the eastern side of Main Street. Could the NJ DOT or Morris County be approached for tree-planting in these sections? Perhaps Mr. Torello could be consulted on this situation.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo reported that she had a copy of Borough Attorney Lott's "Overview of Chatham Borough's Proposed Regulations Governing Trees on Private Properties". Mrs. Drew offered to make copies of this document and distribute to Commissioners to discuss at their next meeting.

Chrmn. Truppo stated that this document was the presentation given by Attorney Lott to explain what the Borough was doing with regard to private trees.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that \$1,000 from the Commission's budget money has been designated towards legal costs associated with getting this ordinance through for next year.

#### Continuing Educational Units (CEUs)

Chrmn. Truppo reported that the Shade Tree Commission currently has six units. Two more units are still needed.

Mr. Chmura asked if any courses were available online for Commission CEUs. Mr. Fekete believed that Penn State offered such online courses. He will send Mr. Chmura, Ms. Chmura and Mr. Kobylarz the email address on these particular courses.

Moving on to another topic, Mr. Chmura asked Mrs. Drew if Brian Mallin, Chairman of the Manasquan Shade Tree Commission, could still attend a Chatham STC meeting. Mrs. Drew stated that Mr. Mallin couldn't attend a Chatham meeting on Tuesday night, since Tuesday nights are the meeting nights for the Manasquan Shade Tree Commission. Mrs. Drew will see if he would be available on another week night. Legal notification would have to be made of any meeting date change.

The Commission acknowledged Mr. Basralian's email giving his views on a possible new Route 24 Entrance/Exit. Commissioners felt these comments should really be addressed to the Mayor and Borough Council, not the Shade Tree Commission.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that currently there is no Emerald Ash Borer affecting Borough ash trees; however, another disease, Ash Yellow, is infecting some local trees.

At 8:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Borough Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary