

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
 Tuesday, May 16, 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	
Tony Torello	X	
Council Member Collander	X	

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Drew made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of March 21, 2017. Mr. Kobylarz seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of March 21, 2017 were approved.

Ms. Chmura made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of April 18, 2017. Mr. Fekete seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of April 18, 2017 were approved. Mr. Wilson abstained because he was absent from this meeting.

Public Comment

Paul Kleinhelder, 10 Coleman Ave., showed the Commission a photo of 84 Coleman Ave. and questioned why these trees will be removed. Mr. Torello answered that John Linson, the Borough’s arborist, had inspected these three trees and found a great deal of rot in them. Several cavities and holes were existing in these trees. Chrmn. Truppo noted that this property is on the list to have new trees planted in place of the removed trees.

Commissioners commended Mr. Kleinhelder for his interest in these trees. They asked him to consider joining the Commission. The application is on the Borough web site. Mr. Kleinhelder indicated he was interested.

Ad-hoc Planting Request – 25 Oliver Street

Chrmn. Truppo reported that a homeowner at 25 Oliver St. sent the Commission an e-mail informing the Commission that he was on the Borough tree planting list for this year, had picked out a maple tree; however, the tree was never planted. The homeowner is frustrated. He would like a tree planted this spring. Chrmn. Truppo confirmed that this resident was on the August 2016 list for tree plantings. Commissioners concluded that unfortunately an administrative oversight may have been made on this tree request situation.

Ms. Chmura made a motion that the Commission plant this tree at 25 Oliver Street this coming spring because of the administrative oversight that occurred last year. The remaining trees on the Commission's planting list, will be planted in the fall. Mr. Kobylarz seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

On other matters, Mrs. Drew reported that in the last four years, the Borough has lost approximately 1,000 trees on private property. In the first 4 ½ months of 2017, Mrs. Drew discovered that 38 tree removal permits had been approved and issued. Seventy-one trees have been taken down.

Discuss and Finalize Tree Ordinance Background Information

Chrmn. Truppo distributed copies of the draft ordinance, which had been amended after last month's meeting. Commissioners should also have copies of Mr. Fekete's Nuisance Tree Policy.

Council Member Collander had two documents from Borough Attorney James Lott. These documents were Chapter 313: General Provisions, Shade Tree Commission and a Borough Ordinance from January 2014: An Ordinance of the Shade Tree Commission of the Borough of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 314 of the Shade Tree Legislation. Ms. Holler went downstairs to make copies for the Commissioners. The meeting ceased for a few minutes. The tape was turned off.

When Ms. Holler returned with the copies documents, the tape machine was turned on. Mr. Fekete then suggested that the Commission do a bullet point presentation to the Borough Council advocating the need for this ordinance.

Chrmn. Truppo gave her power-point presentation to the Commission entitled: “Background Information on Permits Issued and Trees Taken Down”. She noted that a review had been done of neighboring towns and their tree provisions.

(I’m sorry – I misplaced the tapes for the rest of the meeting. These meeting actions are taken from my notes – L. Holler, Rec. Secretary).

Mr. Kobylarz suggested examples could be given reporting the tree canopies that have been lost in neighboring towns.

In her power-point, Chrmn. Truppo presented the document, Chapter 314 – Protection of Trees: Preamble: Purpose & Intent: Article: Care & Protection of Trees in the Public Highway.”

Commissioners accepted the Unlawful Acts Section. They discussed what the fine should be for the removal of a tree without a permit. Council Member Collander believed that Attorney Lott could help determine this penalty fee in the future.

Commissioners discussed where the definitions for the ordinance should be placed.

Council Member Collander felt that the Commission, in their presentation to the Borough Council, should stress the disappearance of the tree canopy in Chatham Borough. More structure is needed in the tree removal process in the Borough.

After further discussion, a motion was made/seconded that the Shade Tree Commission bring the proposed ordinance and all the information Commissioners gathered and give a formal presentation to the Borough Council. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye, except for Mr. Fekete and Mr. Dean. They voted no.

At 9:41 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler, Recording Secretary

