

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
Tuesday, May 15, 20187:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m., Room 201, Upper Level, Chatham Borough Hall. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X	
Fran Drew	X	
Ken Fekete	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Council Member James Collander		X
Tony Torello, Shade Tree Enforcement Officer		X

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

Public Comments

Chrmn. Truppo introduced John Tortorella, who was one of the hard-working volunteers, at the tree planting project recently held at the new Trailside Park. Chrmn. Truppo has encouraged Mr. Tortorella to file an application to become a member of the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Tortorella stated that he has lived in Chatham Borough for almost 18 years. He and his family live on Tallmadge Avenue. He departed from the meeting.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Drew made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

New Business

TransOption and Tri Town 55+

Chrmn. Truppo reported that TransOption and Tri Town 55+ representatives have attended Borough Council meetings. There is a very specific program in the Borough to create an urban track to run from Division Avenue, all the way down Main Street to Shepard Kollock Park. This urban track will encourage people to walk the town and take in points of interest – historical sites, interesting trees, etc. It will be a self-guided walking tour. This project is part of the Mayor's Wellness Program. Chrmn. Truppo felt that the Commission could donate info on some of the very unique trees on Main Street.

Mrs. Drew felt the urban track was a good idea. Related to that topic, Mrs. Drew noted that currently there are 8 tree banners installed on Main Street. She pointed out that the Commission had originally purchased 12 banners and their corresponding brackets. Possibly another civic

group is using the remaining brackets. Mrs. Drew suggested more banners be purchased. She distributed a list of pro-tree messages that could be printed on these additional banners.

Mrs. Drew asked the Commission if they would consider purchasing more tree banners. She offered to find out the cost of the banners from Gates, the company which had sold the earlier tree banners to the Commission. These additional banners could be put up on eastern Main Street and the train station area, where there are no time limits for banners. Commissioners consented to Mrs. Drew finding out the costs for these additional banners and reporting back at the next meeting.

Chrmn. Truppo will touch base with Mr. Torello about how many more banners could be put up. Additional brackets may be needed.

Returning to the urban track idea, Ms. Chmura brought up that in Caldwell NJ, at the Grover Cleveland Park, each tree has printed information. South Mountain Reservation has plastic info signs for their trees. Ms. Chmura will take pictures next time of these labeled trees. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the Arbor Day Foundation has interesting information on trees. Mr. Fekete suggested laminated signs could be used for the Borough trees.

#### Roots to River

Chrmn. Truppo reported that this project was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers planted about 700 of the 1,050 trees that needed planting. DPW planted the remainder of the trees the following week. Chrmn. Truppo has spoken with Mr. Torello and the DPW about the watering for these trees. They told her that being close to the river, that particular ground is usually moist. However, if a very dry summer occurs, the DPW has a special cart they can use to water the trees. Chrmn. Truppo stated that DPW did a wonderful job helping with this project. She had thanked them at a recent Borough Council meeting. Borough Administrator Steve Williams was helpful in securing the necessary equipment for this project.

On other matters, the Commission discussed the Borough tree that was recently removed on Watchung Ave., supposedly for traffic safety reasons. The Shade Tree Commission was never notified of this removal. Chrmn. Truppo reported that Council Member Resto has reached out to the County Shade Tree Commission. He has requested in the future that the County engage the Borough if there is an issue of a tree coming down on a county road like Watchung Avenue. In this particular case, an agreement probably could've been reached about this tree situation.

Chrmn. Truppo will touch base with Council Member Resto on what authority towns would have when tree removals, like on Watchung Ave., are proposed.

#### 2018 Fishawack Day – June 9

Chrmn. Truppo reported that she has reached out to Kate Murphy, the Chair of the Borough Environmental Commission. Mrs. Murphy has agreed that the Shade Tree Commission and the Shade Tree Commission could share a table on Fishawack Day. Shade Tree Commissioners can drop by any information/displays to Mrs. Murphy's home. Chrmn. Truppo and Mrs. Drew had posters and a leaflet to donate to the table.

### CEU Planning

Chrmn. Truppo noted that Mr. Chmura and Mr. Fekete have submitted their earned units. She asked the rest of the Commissioners if they could try and acquire at least one more unit.

### Miscellaneous

On other matters, the Commission discussed cancelling one of their Summer meetings – either July 17<sup>th</sup> or August 21<sup>st</sup>. They decided to cancel the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Holler will notify Robin Kline, the Borough Clerk, so legal notification can be made of this cancellation.

Mrs. Drew urged the Commission to consider planting more chestnut trees in the Borough. She had observed beautiful chestnut trees in her recent European travels.

Ms. Chmura thanked Chrmn. Truppo for her work in obtaining the Roots to Rivers Grant, and making it so successful.

Chrmn. Truppo reviewed a recent Tree Service Request Form submitted by a resident on Rowan Road. The resident had reported that the Norway Maple tree by the creek behind her home has blocked the sunlight and killed all the grass in her backyard. Chrmn. Truppo noted that the DPW has inspected this tree and has deemed it healthy with no problems. Chrmn. Truppo suggested the Commission take a vote on the tree's future, keeping in mind the DPW's findings.

Mrs. Drew made a motion, based on the DPW's evaluation, to keep the tree, by Day's Brook, at 35 Rowan Road. Mr. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Mr. Chmura reported that he has drafted wording for the plaque to be placed at the Scarlet Oak tree in Lum Field. He has turned this draft over to Diane Conlan, who is on the Board of the Chatham Historical Society. Mrs. Conlan will present the draft at the Society's next Board meeting.

Mr. Chmura also reported that the ordinance for private trees was introduced at last night's Borough Council meeting.

On other matters, Ms. Chmura asked if there has been a trust fund set up for Shade Tree donations.

Chrmn. Truppo noted that a tree escrow fund for Chatham Borough is now in place. The State has approved this fund. Chrmn. Truppo pointed out that currently on the Tree Service Request Form there is a box for a resident to check off if they are interested in donating a tree. The resident's donation, by check, will be allocated to the tree escrow fund.

After further discussion, Mr. Fekete suggested another box be added on the Tree Service Request Form asking if the resident would like to donate to the Tree Escrow Fund.

The Commissioners complimented Ms. Chmura on another wonderful Arbor Day Concert, which was held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

At 8:21 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary