

## CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION

March 19, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Borough Shade Tree Commission to order at 7:30 p.m., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Borough Hall. The Open Public Meetings Act was read aloud.

Name	Present	Absent
Colleen Truppo, Chrmn.	X	
Fran Drew	X	
Kristy Chmura	X	
Ken Chmura	X	
Dean Wilson	X	
John Tortorella		X
Council Member James Collander		X
Patrick Florentino	X	
Tony Torello, Shade Tree Enforcement Officer		X
Beverly Klepper		X
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary	X	

### Public Comment

There was none.

### Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 19, 2019 Shade Tree Commission meeting were approved as submitted.

### Discussion Items

#### Update from Borough Arborist

Chrmn. Truppo reported that John Linson has told her that it is not a separate treatment. It is the treatment that has already been given to the ash trees to treat the ash borer. It won't be an additional expense.

### JCP & L Tree Work

Chrmn. Truppo brought up a letter from JCP & L concerning the removal many of the local ash trees, growing close to the wires. Chrm. Truppo, Borough

Administrator Steve Williams, and DPW Director Tony Torello, and will be meeting later in the week with a JCP & L representative, Rob Walton, to review this matter. Chrmn. Truppo and Commissioners felt that JCP & L should wait and see if these trees show signs of the ash borer disease before removing them. A number of Borough ash trees have been treated for the ash borer disease. Mr. Torello has a list of these treated Borough trees which he will take to the meeting with JCP & L. Chrmn. Truppo will email the outcome of this meeting with JCP & L to Commissioners.

#### Report – Advisory Committee for Underground Wiring

Mrs. Drew reported that this Committee meets once a month. One meeting has been held so far. The Committee will be studying further underground wiring installation in Chatham Borough. Also, this committee will hopefully keep neighboring communities informed of Chatham Borough's work to install underground wiring. Mrs. Drew stated that the Committee will find out, hopefully in two years, how such an installation should be undertaken.

Mrs. Drew noted that she has contacted Janet McTay who is with the electric company in Fort Collins, Colorado. Fort Collins has installed underground wiring for 7,000 people without any charge. Mrs. Drew invited Ms. McTay to give a presentation to Chatham Borough on how this installation can be done. Mrs. Drew has sent Ms. McTay a copy of the Borough resolution that formed this advisory committee for underground wiring. Mrs. Drew will let the Commissioners know of Ms. McTay's answer to this invitation. She will also notify the Mayor of Manasquan and Governor Murphy of this presentation. Mrs. Drew stressed the importance of educating people on the benefits of installing wires underground, particularly when it would save our local trees.

#### New Business

##### 2019 Arbor Day Concert

Ms. Chmura reported that a new location is being looked into for the concert– the ECLC auditorium, next door to Borough Hall. Her Arbor Day harp concert will be held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. The only possible expense is for a janitor for that afternoon. Mr. Chmura noted that feedback is still needed from Borough Administrator Steve Williams on this event. The Commission is responsible for the actual set-up and break-down of the concert. Mr. Chmura reported that the Fish & Game Club House would be the back-up location for this event. He explained what the procedures would have to be followed if the concert were held there. Chrmn. Truppo has sent these details to Borough Administrator Williams to review and ask for his approval.

Commissioners discussed possible ways of collecting donations from concert goers for tree-related projects. Chrmn. Truppo will ask DPW Director Torello and Mr. Pietorantuono on possible places where donated trees could be planted in the Borough.

Ms. Chmura noted that she will have her CDs available for sale at the concert. The proceeds from this sale will go to the Shade Tree Commission. Chrmn. Truppo will check with Mr. Day, the Borough CFO, to see who the donation checks should be made out to, both for the CD sales and donations towards tree planting. Ms. Chmura suggested that a tree request form be included in the program leaflet.

#### STC Facebook Page

Chrmn. Truppo reported that a Facebook page has been created for the Shade Tree Commission to keep residents informed of the Commission's activities. Currently the Tree Service Request Form is on this Facebook page. Ms. Chmura suggested that Arbor Day Foundation articles could be included on the Facebook. Mrs. Drew suggested the Commission's Facebook page could be utilized to begin educating residents about the benefits of underground wiring.

#### Core Training

Ms. Chmura and Mr. Chmura found the link to help them register for the upcoming core training offered by Rutgers University.

#### Tree topping work on Inwood Road

Mrs. Drew discussed a recent tree topping incident on the residential property across the street from her home on Inwood Road. She distributed photos to Commissioners showing the landscapers topping a tree in her neighbor's backyard. Mrs. Drew believed that particular tree was 40 feet or more away from any house. The homeowner was at her job in the city and could not be easily contacted that day. Mrs. Drew called DPW Director Tony Torello. After observing the topping situation, Mr. Torello told Mrs. Drew that currently the topping of trees is not blocked by any ordinances. John Linson, the arborist, does not like tree-topping, but it goes on. Mr. Torello also informed Mrs. Drew that no tree permit had been issued for this tree work on her neighbor's property.

Mrs. Drew felt research could be done in the tree removal ordinances in neighboring communities regulating tree topping. She felt there were many instances in the Borough of trees being removed without the necessary Borough permits. Commissioners questioned why this resident on Inwood Road was fined only \$25

when the ordinance specifies a larger penalty. Chrmn. Truppo will show the photos of this Inwood Road tree situation to Mr. Torello and discuss it further with him.

At 8:22 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Shade Tree Commission will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, upper level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary