

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
February 23, 2023 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, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Truppo stated that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

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

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

Public Comment

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sweetin made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 STC meeting as amended. Vice Chrmn. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Discussion Items

Community Forestry Management Plan

Chrmn. Truppo pulled up on her computer a copy of the last management plan that the STC had submitted. She pointed out that some of statements in the plan are now dated. Mr. Sweetin suggested that the Tree Walks be mentioned in the new

Plan – which the Commissioners are physically walking the streets, reviewing the street tree situations in each neighborhood, taking inventories.

Chrmn. Truppo brought up the list of recommended tree species. She and Mr. Sweetin discussed some of the tree species that should now be eliminated.

Regarding the tree planting program, Chrmn. Truppo reported that Mr. Pietrantuono had texted her recently, asking what the dollar amount would be to purchase the trees. A suitable nursery will have to be selected. Perhaps Council Member Koronkiewicz could give the Commission some idea on how much money the STC could spend.

Mr. Sweetin suggested that the STC begin shopping around for the best nursery for the tree planting program. He will touch base with Mr. Pietrantuono.

Chrmn. Truppo felt that the actual tree plantings should still be done in the fall. Many Chatham people go away on summer trips and their young trees may not receive the immediate care/attention they seriously need.

Mr. Sweetin brought up that the memorial tree for the Jaycees should be done. He reviewed the different oak tree variations that could be planted. Perhaps this could tie in with the STC's Arbor Day event. There would still be money remaining to plant several more trees. Chrmn. Truppo noted that there are areas available for tree planting near the Library.

Mr. Sweetin and Chrmn. Truppo will work with Mr. Torello and the DPW in obtaining the trees.

Mr. Wilson felt it was important that the STC use the Jaycee gift money in a timely manner. If the STC delays taking action, the Jaycees may feel differently about gifting us next year. Perhaps some of the money could be used purchasing books on trees for the Chatham Library. Mr. Wilson, who is a volunteer at the Library, has discovered very few books on trees. Tree books for very young children and teen books could also be looked into.

After further discussion on the Jaycee donation, Chrmn. Truppo made a motion that up to \$1,000 be given to the Library of the Chathams to purchase educational books on trees. Mr. Sweetin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion passed.

Mr. Sweetin recommended that the memorial tree requested by the Jaycees be a 2 1/2 caliper tree.

Mr. Wilson brought up some landmark trees, such as a white pine at 350 Main Street and another one on Chandler Rd.

Vice Chrmn. Chmura suggested the STC could consider giving residents awards for their “champion trees” which have thrived for years. The homeowners could send the STC a photo and measurements of their tree to receive recognition as a champion.

Commissioners discussed how to get the word out on this contest and other Arbor Day activities.

Mr. Sweetin stated that his wife was familiar with getting the word out on the Fire Department’s Fishing Derby to the local schools. Also, the STC could do a press release with a photo and write-up of Ms. Chmura and the Arbor Day projects.

Ms. Chmura offered to make a flyer to for the champion trees. These flyers could be distributed on Fishawack Day.

Commissioners discussed how the STC web page could help spread the word on these upcoming activities. Chrmn. Truppo tried pulling up the STC webpage, but had problems with the password.

Ms. Viola kindly agreed to be the marketing person for the STC. She will also create a new page for the STC. Chrmn. Truppo will leave a message on the old web-page on where to find the new web-page.

Chrmn. Truppo made a motion to appoint Gina Viola as the marketing manager for the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Sweetin seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion unanimously passed.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo thanked Commissioners for participating in the latest Tree Walks. Commissioners discussed what would be the best date for the next Tree Walk. They selected March 26th at 1 p.m. They will meet at the Chatham Middle School, the usual spot. Mrs. Klepper will ask her husband to photograph this event. During this walk, Commissioners could look at possible planting locations for the future.

Before adjourning, Chrnm. Truppo asked Commissioners to send her any suggestions they may have for the Forestry Management Plan.

At 8:40 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary