

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
May 25, 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 was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sweetin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023 STC meeting as submitted. Vice Chrmn. Chmura seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The April 27, 2023 STC minutes were approved.

Discussion Items

Windshield Survey

Chrmn. Truppo noted that she had sent STC members electronic copies of the Windshield Survey. She noted that the DPW uses this Survey as their work plan to focus on any local trees that may need pruning or removal. Mr. Sweetin noted that a majority of the trees marked for removal are ash trees. He explained the best seasons for pruning trees. Mr. Sweetin felt the winter months are the best time for pruning trees. Between February and March would be the best months for working on elm trees. Commissioners discussed the ash tree comments made on the Windshield Survey.

Mrs. Klepper asked if the Windshield Survey has a time-table for this tree work. Chrmn. Truppo felt the Windshield Survey was only an assessment of our local trees, not a very up-close look.

Mrs. Klepper asked if the Borough was still treating ash trees.

Chrmn. Truppo said that the Borough hasn't done ash tree treatment for quite a while. Vice Chrmn. Chmura believed that the ash trees could be injected every 3 years. Maybe a few of the healthier ash trees on Rowan Road could be injected. Chrmn. Truppo noted that John Linson had felt that some ash trees on Rowan Road could maybe still be saved. She suggested the STC ask Mr. Linson to prioritize these ash trees to receive treatments/injections. Hopefully some of these trees can still be saved. Chrmn. Truppo suggested maybe the STC's ryder account be used to finance these injections.

STC Tree Walk

Chrmn. Truppo reported on the STC's recent Tree Walk which started in Reasoner Park and ended at the Memorial Park Playground. Twenty-five trees were identified during the Walk. Chrmn. Truppo will give this list to Anna Rice, the Scout, for her Eagle Project, who will establish QR codes to identify and give info on these trees. Chrmn. Truppo will also send Anna information on the trees in Memorial Park planted in memory of certain Borough residents. Vice Chrmn. Chmura offered to take QR photos of trees in Summit to give Anna a sample of how another town does it.

Chrmn. Truppo suggested more Tree Walks in the future.

Fishawack Day - June 10, 2023

Chrmn. Truppo noted that the STC had a table at last year's Fishawack. Chrmn. Truppo and Vice Chrmn. Chmura will both be unavailable on June 10th. Perhaps the Environmental Commission would graciously agree to display some of the STC material on their table.

Unfortunately, the STC poster contest was a no-go this year.

On other matters, Mr. Wilson reported that he had given Mr. Sweetin's recommended tree books to the Chatham Library for their consideration.

STC Tree Walk for June

Mr. Sweetin suggested that each Commissioner take a map of Chatham Borough, decide on a section of the town, walk it and look for any future tree planting sites. He suggested what conditions the Commissioners should look for when scouting for available planting sites.

Commissioners decided on Thursday, June 15th for the next collective Tree Walk. Parking will be available at the CMS parking lot. The Walk will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tree Request for 59 South Passaic Avenue

Commissioners discussed Sabina Isak's request for a tree to be planted in her Borough right-of-way at 59 South Passaic Avenue. Ms. Isak has been in touch with the STC by email. Unfortunately, her right-of-way is too skinny for a young tree to successfully grow.

Chrmn. Truppo will talk with Ms. Isak and see if she would agree to have the STC plant a tree on the other side of her sidewalk, five feet from the sidewalk. The Borough will purchase the tree and will take care of the tree for two years. Mr. Sweetin will give Ms. Isak watering instructions.

Membership opening on the STC

Chrmn. Truppo reported that Fran Drew has resigned from the Commission.

She asked Commissioners to ask around among their friends and see who may be interested in joining the STC. Volunteer applications are available at the Borough Clerk's Office.

If the vacancy is filled, and the Mayor officially approves, Beverly Klepper can then become a full member of the Commission.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Sweetin suggested for next year's Earth Day or Arbor Day celebration, that the STC give out free seedlings. He pointed out that the STC can apply to the State for these seedlings.

Commissioners reviewed some progress that had been made on the memorial tree that the Jaycees would like planted in memory of Mr. Cammarata. Chrmn. Truppo believed that Mr. Torello, the DPW Director, had been waiting for the official approval for this tree planting.

Chrmn. Truppo reported that there will be another showing of the documentary "American River" on June 11th at the Chatham Cinema. There are posters in downtown store windows giving additional information.

Chrmn. Truppo asked Commissioners to bring the current Borough tree ordinance to the June meeting for a discussion. She suggested they look over the ordinance before the next meeting.

At 8:51 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary