

CHATHAM BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
August 24, 2023 7:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Colleen Truppo called this Regular Meeting of the Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting 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.

Attendance was taken:

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

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

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Florentino made a motion to approve the July 27, 2023 STC meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The July 27, 2023 minutes were approved.

Discussion Items

Chrmn. Truppo brought up the recent meeting held with neighboring Shade Tree Commissions. Unfortunately, she could not attend. Mr. Sweetin, who had attended, reported that Madison had discussed the number of their activities that included Saving the Drew Forest, the Green Acres grant, and other projects. Mr. Sweetin had reported on the Borough Shade Tree activities at this meeting. Mr. Gilmore also attended this meeting.

Mr. Sweetin noted that the Summit Shade Tree Commission could not attend this event. Mr. Sweetin had some good hand-outs from the Madison Shade Tree Committee. These hand-outs

are in PDF form. He will forward them on to Chrmn. Truppo if she could please distribute them to the rest of the Commission.

Mr. Gilmore pointed out that one of the hand-outs would be helpful with the Eagle Scout project that is currently being worked on.

Also from this gathering, Mr. Sweetin had obtained a hand-out listing invasive species and what acceptable plantings could be used as a substitute. It was entitled "Massive Plants & Some Cool Alternatives". Mr. Sweetin pointed out that Norway spruce is very invasive and can even grow in a roof gutter. He stated that bamboo should have been included on the invasive species list. Mr. Sweetin mentioned some good alternatives.

Mr. Sweetin suggested the Chatham Shade Tree Commission could host this gathering in the near future. The Stanley Building may have space available.

Chrmn. Truppo, Mr. Sweetin, and Mr. Gilmore suggested having a slide presentation on these invasive species trees at one of the STC meetings. Mr. Sweetin recommended an expert speaker he had heard.

Chrmn. Truppo thanked Mr. Sweetin and Mr. Gilmore for attending this event and gathering so much information.

Future Tree Walks

Commissioners decided to hold another Tree Walk Thursday, September 21st, 6:30 p.m. Everyone is asked to park and meet in the Ogden Church parking lot on Elmwood Avenue.

Sustainability Fair

Chrmn. Truppo reported that Susie Robertson, Chairman of the Environmental Commission, has contacted her about the Sustainability Fair that will be held on Saturday, September 23rd 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mrs. Robertson is asking STC if they would like to have a table at this event. Chrmn. Truppo said she would be out of town that day. Mr. Sweetin said he would be at that event anyway and will be at the Fire Department table. Chrmn. Truppo will send out emails to STC members to see if they would be available to work a time slot at the STC table. Three time slots would be available.

Fall Planting

The Tree Requests from residents are slowly coming in. Related to this, Mr. Sweetin brought up a future project on No. Hillside. He has asked the Borough to install two water faucets to help water Borough plantings. Chrmn. Truppo felt it would be a good idea for the STC to be made aware of any DPW road projects coming up. Any tree plantings should be the last step after any paving or curb work is done. Chrmn. Truppo will set up a meeting that will include Tony Torello, Leo Pietrantuono, herself and Mr. Sweetin to discuss the fall plantings.

Commissioners discussed a recent request from a resident from 1 Ellers Drive asking for trees to be planted along the walking path connecting Ellers Drive to Rowan Road. Chrmn. Truppo the STC may have some trees available for that particular section this fall.

On other matters, Chrmn. Truppo reported that John Linson, the Borough Arborist, will look at a tree at 22 Garden Avenue. The resident has expressed safety concerns about this this Borough tree. DPW has recently trimmed this tree. Mr. Linson will do a follow-up site visit.

Tree Ordinances

Chrmn. Truppo suggested the Commission look over the tree ordinances of other towns. She asked what would be the most efficient way of doing such a review. There are tree ordinances that handle public trees, and others dealing with private trees. A focus could be done on the best practices followed by these towns.

Mr. Florentino suggested doing a comparison of two towns' tree ordinances. A template could then be created. He offered to do a comparison of both Madison and Chatham Borough, focusing on the high-lights of both the public and private tree ordinances.

NJ Tree Federation Conference

Mr. Sweetin distributed registration forms for the NJ Tree Federation Conference which will be held on October 26th and 27th. He also had a registration booklet describing the topics that will be covered at the conference. Commissioners pointed out the topics that interested them.

Chrmn. Truppo suggested Commissioners notify her right away if they are interested in attending so the Borough can issue a purchase order to the Federation for attendance fees. That way Commissioners will not have to pay out of their own pockets. Mr. Sweetin will try and obtain additional registration booklets.

At 8:31 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary