



PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 in Monument Hall. S. Ainsworth, Chair, opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the Law, Notice was provided of the date, time and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted Schedule of Regular Meetings in the Monument Hall and Witherspoon Buildings, by mailing copies to the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet, and Town Topics and by filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk of Princeton.

PRESENT: Sharon Ainsworth, Victoria Airgood (arrived 6:15), Welmoet Bok van Kammen (left at 6:30 p.m.), Pat Frawley, Lily Krauss (arrived 6:00 p.m.), Bernie Miller, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Joanne Diez, Alexandra Radbil, Lorraine Konopka

ALSO PRESENT: Janice Most, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

No Minutes presented.

BUDGET

Nothing to report.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION 2016 ACTIVITIES

S. Ainsworth presented the Draft 2016 Shade Tree Commission Activities stating that it has been a very active year and all requirements for the State Master Plan have been met; also, L. Konopka will be doing the Annual Report.

Draft 2016 Shade Tree Commission Activities:

- Reviewed and recommended STC Ordinance Amendments implemented by Mayor and Council.
- Nassau Street Tree Renovation Project – recommendations and implementation
- Davey Tree Keeper Data Review – updated Ash tree data and recommended upgrades.
- Provided Mayor and Council with Emerald Ash Borer Analysis, management recommendations, and projected costs.
- Worked with Mayor and Council to establish EAB Adopt-A-Tree Program.
- Public Outreach including:
 - developed and distributed an Ordinance Brochure
 - organized an EAB Public Information Session
 - participated in Annual Community seedling distribution
 - conducted Arbor Day Celebration at Littlebrook Elementary, Community Park Elementary and Johnson Park Elementary Schools
 - updated the STC Website regularly with emphasis on EAB information

Discussion ensued concerning completed activities with the following agreed upon by all members present:

- Rewrite/expand on updated Ash Tree Data and recommended upgrades.
- Add: recommendations to Zoning and Planning Boards for Site Plan reviews.

S. Ainsworth stated that she will be sending an e-mail reminder for everyone to submit their individual volunteer hours for 2016; she would like this information by December 19; and, that the Commission has met the State requirements for Continuing Education Credits.

Discussion ensued concerning: Forestry website reflecting CEU's; J. Stern forwarding Webinar information to S. Ainsworth. B. Miller suggested S. Ainsworth contact R. Hough and L. Konopka for Ordinance Violation Fees collected in 2016.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION 2017 PRIORITIES

S. Ainsworth presented the 2017 Goals from the Princeton Community Forestry Management Plan:

- Inspect sectors for hazard trees.
- Prune recently planted trees for structure (by volunteers, if appropriate).
- Maintain Tree City status.
- Continue participation in annual Arbor Day, Communiversity, and other outreach events to enhance public awareness of the benefits of trees and their proper care.
- Continue implementation of the EAB media plan and public tree management plan.
- Continue education and/or CORE accreditation.
- Continue pruning/removal of hazard trees.
- Target planting of sufficient number of replacement trees to achieve zero net loss.
- File New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report.

Discussion ensued concerning completed activities with the following agreed upon by all members present:

- Add: work with staff to get Grant applications completed.
- Add: update existing Brochure with new Ordinance information to be completed by J. Stern and V. Airgood for distribution and posting to Website.

Discussion ensued concerning: prioritizing Ash trees to be removed before the Spring season and before budget adoption; W. Bok van Kammen requested an Ash Tree Report, S. Ainsworth will contact A. Radbil to see how to complete the report and for setting priority trees for removal; Ash tree conditions; database updating; Budgeting; Summer Interns; identifying most vulnerable Ash trees for Spring removal and possible injections; continuing to work on existing website with J. Stern will send W. Bok van Kammen updates.

Discussions continued concerning: trees distributed at Communiversity, Arbor Day; getting sponsors for costs through merchants; W. Bok van Kammen suggested a brochure of signature/significant trees; using laminate on individual trees to get information regarding the tree; QR Code using cell phones (W. Bok van Kammen will research this item more); using Scout Troops to tag trees; using beacons on trees to beep to cell phone to give information about the tree and the possible intrusiveness of the beacon.

ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM FORM

Members reviewed the [Emerald Ash Borer Request by Private Property Owners to Treat Ash Trees in the Public Right-of-Way/Parks Application Form](#). Discussion ensued concerning: how the program will work; time commitment required by residents; having the form reviewed by

legal which was deemed not necessary; adding a statement to the Program guidelines that if a resident wishes to no longer participate they have to notify the Shade Tree Commission, which was deemed not necessary; having informal Agreements in addition to the Form; putting participants into the database to keep track; how to inform the public about the program.

OTHER BUSINESS

S. Ainsworth stated that there was previous discussion concerning planting a White Oak tree in honor of the previous Arborist Greg O'Neill. She will follow up with L. Konopka.

S. Ainsworth stated that there is a vacant seat on the Commission; that A. Radbil will now become a voting member leaving an Alternate position open; and, that she has recommended Patricia Hyatt to the Mayor to fill the vacant Alternate position, also members whose appointments are expiring this year are being reconsidered. She also stated that if any Commission members wished to make a recommendation for the position to please have the potential candidate fill out the online application immediately. Discussion ensued concerning: candidates should be strong in promotion and media outreach; Reorganization is on January 4 where the Mayor makes appointments.

B. Miller thanked all Commission Members for their hard work and dedication to the Shade Tree Commission.

Commission members thanked B. Miller for his support.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:35 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Krauss seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted January 12, 2017
Janice S. Most

Adopted: January 24, 2017