



# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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### Minutes of Regular Meeting Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)

July 14, 2018

Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

#### Present

Don Burden, Mayor\*  
Bill Gerth, Chairperson  
Doug Keiper  
Stuart Minis  
Mary Russell  
Patrick Slattery  
Betsy Wattley

#### Absent

Larry Lobaugh

\* Non-voting member (Council Liaison)

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Chairman Gerth began the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Presiding Officer's statement in compliance with the P. L. 1975 c. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act. Mr. Gerth took roll call.

#### **I. POSTING OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING**

Minutes to STC's May 2018 meeting have been posted to the Borough's web-site.

#### **II. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. September 8 meeting cancelled due to schedule conflicts.
- B. Tree of Interest - *Acer x freemanii* (Autumn Blaze Maple) - a hybrid of red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). It has the vigor and adaptability of the silver maple along with the beauty and strength of the red maple.
- C. Borough Newsletter - Mr. Gerth submitted article highlighting 20-year certification as a Tree City USA.
- D. Asbury Park Press article 'How to tell if your trees might fall in a storm' (May 21, 2018). Interview with Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Garden.
- E. Conferences/Seminars - NJ Shade Tree Federation 93rd Annual Conference - October 18-19, 2018 in Cherry Hill, NJ. CORE training to be offered.

#### **III. RESIDENT, BUSINESS, UTILITY INQUIRIES/ACTIONS**

- L. Rissland (62 Beechwood) - via Mr. Burden - declining/dead American Elms across the street and at 99 White - informed that this is a homeowner's responsibility.

- D. Henderson (The Ivy HOA President) - reviewed storm damaged trees needing removal and recommended course of action. Experience similar to the HOA at The ENCLAVE.
- J. Gwydir (Heritage Green) - cause of half-dead Crapemyrtle and what to do. Advised that cause was likely extreme temperature fluctuations during the day in the winter. Advised to either remove or prune dead branches and see if tree rebounds in the future.
- M. Young (99 White Street) - seeking assistance from STC with declining American Elm that was pruned under direction of Code Enforcement Officer (branches overhanging street). Suspect Dutch Elm Disease. Mr. Slattery to inspect tree and recommend action on tree. STC unable to provide relief to homeowner in terms of removal or remediation.
- R. Johnson (Executive Director of The Chelsea at Shrewsbury) - concerned about standing trees that may pose a hazard. Visited site on July 12 to inspect trees. Recommended raising canopy on Tulip tree, removing cedar along Shrewsbury Avenue and cleaning up two mature trees along Patterson Avenue. Advised Mr. Johnson of no net canopy loss policy within the Borough and that trees of equal size at maturity to those remove needed planted.

#### **IV. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. Conference/Seminar Debriefs:**

- Borough Council - Mr. Gerth presented 20-year Tree City USA certification to the Mayor and Council on June 18. DPW has new plaque at entrance to their complex on White Road and is flying the 20-year Tree City USA flag at Patriot's Isle. Council meeting well attended with over 150 people.
- Forestry Resource Education Center - Mr. Gerth attended lecture June 12 on the Spotted Lantern Fly. This invasive species attacks the 'Tree of Heaven' (*Ailanthus altissima*), grapes and 70 other tree/shrub species. If you 'See it, Report it'. Pictures can be submitted to [SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov](mailto:SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov) and/or reported to the NJ Spotted Lanternfly Hotline at 1-833-223-2840.

##### **B. 2018 Budget** - 2018 budget \$14,000; expenses to date \$1,340.75 (Dues \$240.00; Education \$129.00; Grounds Maintenance \$971.75), remaining budget \$12,659.25; pending (Statile's - 'Elizabeth' Magnolia & Autumn Blaze Maple; Conrad's - Pick-up, Delivery, Installation; For-Shore Weed Control [@\$5,000]); and, Municipal Complex Clean-up [@\$5,000]).

##### **C. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant**

- Mr. Gerth, Mr. Burden and Mr. Minis took site measurements to be used in determining the number of trees per location.
- STC reviewing 'Tree Planting & Maintenance Plan Guidelines' from NJ UCF to help in plan development.
- Mr. Gerth will write up the plan. STC considering consulting with an arborist (e.g., Paul Cowie) on species selection and inviting Brian McDonald (NJ UCF) to walk the sites as part of the NJ review process. STC will work with the Borough's Finance Administrator (Mr. T. Seaman) to develop 'Request for Quote Proposal'. Possible vendors include: Celtic Landscape, Total Landscape, Down to Earth Landscape, and Siciliano's Landscape. Mr. Burden indicated the Borough has had some issues with Celtic Landscape in terms of their crews mowing lawns before 8 am.

##### **D. Borough Tree/Shrub Maintenance:**

- Mr. Gerth met with DPW Foreman (Ron Neis) on May 24 to review trees on Patterson Avenue, at the DPW Complex, and at the Municipal Complex. Mr. Gerth

and Mr. Neis intend to meet on a monthly basis to review tree issues and coordinate action.

- Mr. Gerth met with Nathaniel Matthews (For-Shore Weed Control) on May 14 at the Municipal Complex to assess status of invasive vines. For-Shore to spot-treat residual growth from late 2017 application. For-Shore to initiate Phase II in September/October.
- Mr. Gerth and Mr. Minis met with Councilwoman Kim Doran Eulner on June 28 to provide a briefing on STC issues and initiatives. Encouraged Ms. Doran Eulner to conduct meeting of Open Space Committee with full representation of stakeholders.
- Mr. Gerth and Mr. Minis conducted structural pruning June 28 of the White Pine, Sycamore, and Copper Beech trees on East side of Boro Hall/Wardell House.
- Mr. Gerth discussed pruning of mature Sycamores along Sycamore Avenue with Monmouth County Shade Tree Division Supervisor (Mr. George Noble) on July 10. Mr. Noble will follow-up to schedule pruning.
- Mr. Burden inquired about whether there are any updates on the landscape plans for the Wardell House. STC has not received any updates since providing feedback to the landscape architect earlier in 2018.

**E. STC Letters Related to Declining/Dead Trees in RoW:** Code Enforcement notices going out to residents with trees that are out of code (e.g., limbs less than 14' over streets, 8' over sidewalks, 3" from sidewalk) and for bamboo. STC discussed decline in maintenance of street trees since DPW stopped pruning/removing street trees in the RoW a couple of years ago. Tree pruning is sporadic and haphazardous leading to an overall aesthetic decline in the Borough's treescape. STC agreed to look into hiring a consulting arborist (e.g., RichView, Sav-A-Tree) to develop a street tree maintenance plan for the Borough. STC thinks that this maintenance work might best be contracted out to qualified tree services.

**F. 2018 Tree Planting Wish List:** Mr. Gerth and Mr. Keiper shopped for Crimson King trees at 4 local nurseries (Conrad's, Holmdel, Colonial, and Casola). None available.

- R. Mouyanar (15 Winding Brook Way) - 2 Crimson Kings - Purchased directly from Barton Nurseries in Edison (\$185 each). Cost estimate from Colonial was \$450 to \$550 per tree plus \$300 to \$500 for delivery and installation. Mr. Gerth rented U-Haul to pick up and deliver trees. Mr. Slattery provided muscle in moving trees once at residence. Mr. Gerth installed trees integrating Bumper Crop into the soil, provided tree-gators, and provided initial watering since the residents are away. Residents will water upon return.
- T. Menapace (74 Robinson Place) - Purchased 1 'Autumn Blaze' Red Maple (*Acer x freemanii*) from LP Statile. Conrad's to pick-up, deliver and install. STC Will provide gator bag.
- DPW Complex - Mr. Gerth planted 1 Crapemyrtle 'Natchez' (*Lagerstoemia indica*) purchased from Barton Nurseries. STC to set up watering schedule: M. Russell will water week of July 16. STC considering planting two additional trees (i.e., Thornless Common Honey Locust [*Gleditsia triacanthos*] or alternative) at site.
- R. Victor (45 Rosewood Drive) - Purchased 1 'Elizabeth' Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) from LP Statile. Conrad's to pick-up, deliver and install. STC to provide gator bag.

**V. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD:** Mr. Minis informed STC that two medical office complexes are being considered for the Judd property (just South of Manson Field). Mr.

Burden noted that there are a number of notable tree species on this property to be on guard for when the landscape plans come to STC.

- VI. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:** Mrs. J. Bonnano attended the meeting.
- VII. ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Minis motioned, Mr. Keiper seconded, to adjourn meeting.
- VIII. NEXT MEETING -** Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 8:30 am.

Bill Gerth, Chairperson