



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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Minutes of Regular Meeting
Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)
August 13, 2016

Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Bill Gerth, Chairperson
Doug Keiper
Patrick Slattery
Mary Russell
Betsy Wattley

Absent

Don Burden, Mayor*
Stuart Minis
Steve Skop

* Non-voting member (Council Liaison)

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

July's meeting minutes have been posted to the Borough's web-site.

II. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mr. Gerth cancelled STC's September 10th meeting due to scheduling conflicts.
- B. Mr. Gerth circulated an article from the New York Times titled "My Father's Hackberry Tree". A poignant story of a tree linking father and daughter scientists.
- C. Mr. Gerth announced NJ Forestry Association will be hosting a 3½ day Woodland Stewards Program to be held in the third week of October. Mr. Gerth encouraged STC members to attend if possible either this year or in future years and suggested that the \$75 registration fee could be covered by STC. Attendance in program will help the Borough with its woodlands stewardship objectives set out in the 2016-2020 CFMP. Mr. Slattery expressed interest in attending.
- D. Mr. Gerth announced that the Open Space Pace Parade and Festival will be held on September 17, 2016 at the Freehold Raceway.
- E. Mr. Gerth circulated a flyer from RareFinds Nursery (Jackson, NJ) offering bud grafts (\$75) of the direct descendent from the last standing 400+ year old "Liberty Tree" (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) located in Annapolis, MD. Mr. Gerth proposed purchasing one or more for the Borough. STC agreed.

- F. Mr. Gerth reported that the NJ Community Forestry Program has announced CSIP grants for 2016. Categories are: Resiliency Planning, Hazard Mitigation, and Reforestation. Ms. Wattley has agreed to research these grant opportunities for STC.
- G. Mr. Gerth reviewed various resident, business, utility, and other tree-related inquiries/actions as follows:
 - o C. Tracy (168 Spruce) - requested confirmation of tree to be removed
 - o E. Goushy (116 Samara) - requested confirmation of tree to be removed
 - o S. Milnes (4 Sunnybank) - reported two dead Zelkovas planted by STC and requested replacement trees
 - o E. Beshore (120 Obre) - inquired about declining/dead tree
 - o N. Schmaltz - reported unsafe declining/dead tree at 120 Obre
 - o Capital Seniors Housing - sought name of certified tree expert (CTE) in the area as a follow-up to request by Monmouth County Landscape Architect to protect certain trees on property.
 - o Sherwin Williams - placed gator bags
 - o Shadowbrook - visited site with project Engineer and Landscaper
- H. Post-Meeting Note: Mr. Gerth received correspondence from the Shrewsbury Garden Club regarding placement of a plaque to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The club planted the Copper Beech located in the open field to the east of the Wardell House sometime in the 2003 timeframe. It is a beautiful specimen. Mr. Gerth suggested that the club install a plaque similar to that provided for Mr. Allen's dedicated tree so that there is consistency in the type of plaque used at the Municipal Complex.

III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Budget Update:** Approved 2016 budget is \$4,200.00. Spending to date is \$919.01 (Dues/Memberships \$370.00; Education \$107.65; Grounds Maintenance \$284.99; Miscellaneous \$156.37). Remaining balance \$3,280.99 is available for fall tree planting.
- B. **Seminar/Conference Debriefs:** Mr. Gerth attended Rutgers Master Gardener Advance Helpline Training - Trees (July 20). Global climate warming will change nature of trees surviving/thriving in the future. Avoid planting Sugar Maples and other tree species less suited for warmer climates.
- C. **Council/Mayor Proclamation for Outstanding Landscape:** Mr. Burden presented a proclamation to Ms. Dorian McDermott of Shore Footed for her oversight and generous contribution of the stunning raised beds and landscaping at the terminus of Obre Place.
- D. **STC Actions Declining Trees Private:** Mr. Gerth issued letter to the residents at 116 Samara, 133 Samara, 120 Obre, and 168 Spruce) to request removal of declining/dead trees on their property that are hazardous to public safety. The resident at 116 Samara has complied and the resident at 168 Spruce is in the process of complying. No feedback received from residents at 133 Samara or 120 Obre. Mr. Gerth flagged a hazardous tree at 535 Sycamore and will issue a letter next week. Mr. Gerth also suggested that there are some Pin Oaks on Elm Street that have hazardous dead limbs overhanging the street on otherwise healthy trees. STC endorsed modifying resident letter to request that resident have dead limbs removed. Mr. Gerth will follow-up. Mr. Gerth also plans to attend the 15 August 2016 Borough Council meeting to review shade tree guidelines and feedback on hazardous tree notifications.
- E. **Municipal Complex - Manson Park Tree Remediation Planning:**

- Mr. Gerth met with Nathaniel Matthews of For-Shore Weed Control at the Municipal Complex to discuss strategies for managing the invasive vines that have overgrown. For-Shore came highly recommended by the Superintendent of the Monmouth County Shade Tree Division. Mr. Matthews will provide a proposal to STC outlining control strategies and how For-Shore can help.
 - Mr. Gerth reported on a discussion between him and Councilwoman Derasadourian regarding tree management in the Borough. Ms. Derasadourian suggested that it might be useful for STC to take over this function given their expertise. Mr. Gerth indicated that STC would be willing to develop a management plan and budget for tree management in the Borough but expressed reservations about volunteers taking on the implementation component of the plans. STC will invite Ms. Derasadourian to its meeting in October.
- F. Park Avenue Island Tree Pruning:** Councilwoman Derasadourian has championed moving forward with the pruning of hazardous trees on Park Avenue. DPW Foreman (Mr. R. Neis) has contacted Mr. Gerth with asking to forward the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the three competitive bids (Atlantic, Avery, and Monmouth Co. Shade Tree) received for follow-up. Mr. Slattery suggested, in retrospect, it may have been better to solicit bids from a tree service such as Aspen and/or Falkenberg Tree Service. The former are good for tree removals while the latter are better for reduction/structural pruning. Lesson learned.
- G. 2016 Tree Plantings Wish List:** Mr. Gerth asked for STC membership help in locating and supervising planting of trees in the fall for the following (in order of priority):
- J. Doody (Trafalgar) - Sunset Red Maple
 - D. Reilly (218 Williamsburg) - Tricolor Beech
 - A. Woodward (45 Queen Ann Dr) - European Hop Hornbeams
 - C. Karl (62 Queen Ann Dr) - single stem *Amenlanchier* (serviceberry)
 - M. Preiser (34 Parker Place) - Thornless Common Honey Locust
 - J. Luckenbill (92 E End Ave) - x1-2 trees - Red Buckeye (or related species)
 - G. Lucking (42 Dorchester) - x1-2 new trees - Willow Oak
 - S. Milnes (4 Sunnybank) - x1-2 Sweetgums (male)

IV. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD: No Activity

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Keiper made a motion, Ms. Russell seconded, to adjourn meeting.

VII. NEXT MEETING - Saturday, October 8, 2016 at 8:30 am

Bill Gerth, Chairperson