



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

PO BOX 7420
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702
TELEPHONE 732-741-4200

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)
September 12, 2015
Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Bill Gerth, Chairperson
Doug Keiper
Stuart Minis
Patrick Slattery
Lynne Royce
Betsy Wattley

Absent

Mike De Nofa (Council Liaison)*
Mary Russell
Steve Skop

*Non-voting member

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

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

II. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mr. Gerth informed STC that he submitted an article for the 3Qtr2015 Borough newsletter on the partnership between STC and the Heritage Green Homeowners Association in pruning the White Pines along Heritage Drive behind the DPW Complex.
- B. Mr. Gerth reviewed various resident inquiries and actions as follows:
 - o ML. Brooks (65 Patterson Ave) - Mr. Gerth visited site, recommended tree services and CTEs, submitted tree sample to Rutgers Plant Diagnostics Laboratory at Mrs. Brook's expense, provided Outstanding Trees in Shrewsbury map, issued letter to Mrs. Brooks summarizing support, and made recommendation to Council to subsidize ½ cost of tree removal due to road construction

- F. Arauz (112 East End Ave) - Mr. Gerth sent a letter of commendation to Mr. Arauz for identifying and taking quick action in removing a potentially dangerous tree
- A. Cheslock (Metrovation - The Grove) - Mr. Gerth sent an introductory email to Ms. Cheslock to initiate dialogue on STC commending The Grove and the landscape team for their sustained efforts in beautifying the Borough
- Asplundh Trees (Z. Knapp)/JCP&L (Maureen Campbell) - Mr. Gerth met with Mr. Knapp and Ms. Campbell to review plans for tree trimming according to 4-year maintenance plan, multiple streets south of Sycamore, east of Broad/Rt. 35, and discuss a couple of resident specific issues. Mr. Knapp and Ms. Campbell will reach out to residents with concerns prior to the scheduled work (@ October 5)
- Mr. Gerth discussed with numerous residents their concerns with the landscape plans for the Shadowbrook: T. Gavin (109 Obre Place), J. Schumer (93 Obre Place), E. Preissler (67 Obre Place), and J. Halpern (Meadow Drive); informed all that STC has reviewed the preliminary plans and provided initial comments back to the Planning/Zoning Board; also informed and invited all that Mr. Moore (landscape architect) and Mr. Kourgelis (CEO of Shadowbrook) would be meeting with STC at their September 12 regularly scheduled meeting and have a site visit immediately following the meeting
- E. BeShore (120 Obre Drive) - Mr. Gerth exchanged voicemail messages with Mr. BeShore regarding a declining tree w/cut vines on the corner of Samara and Obre
- K. Carroll (173 White Street) - Mr. Gerth sent a reminder to DPW to remove split tree (prior commitment preceding tree responsibility guideline)

III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Seminar Debriefs:

- Mr. Gerth, Mr. Minis, and Ms. Wattley participated in the Webinar hosted by Penns State University's Urban Forestry department titled "Community Engagement" on September 7. The Webinar was helpful in providing a framework for engaging the community in planning for the Esther Hymer Nature Preserve. ½ CEU credit will be awarded for attendance.
- Mr. Gerth attended the NJ Tree Federation/PSE&G Seminar titled "Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place, the Right Way in a Post-Superstorm Sandy World" on September 9 in Moorestown. He briefed STC members that the content and quality of the seminar was informative and will help with interaction with JCP&L locally. 3 CEU credits will be awarded for attendance.
- Mr. Gerth, Mr. Keiper, and Mr. Minus attended the lecture titled "Thinning for Forest Health" at the NJ Forest Resource Education Center on September 10. The lecture provided some wonderful ideas to consider in planning for the Esther Hymer Nature Preserve.

B. Esther Hymer Nature Preserve Initiative - STC visited site with Mr. MacConnell (SBS Superintendent) to explore educational synergies with the school. Mr. MacConnell was excited about the potential and suggested that Grades 3 - 8 would likely benefit the most. Mr. Gerth distributed copies of the preserve/wetland map, initial 2003 schematic by E. M. Waterbury and Associates on trail and infrastructure development, and historical news articles about Mrs. Hymers and the Preserve.

C. Park Avenue Island Pruning - Mr. Gerth developed a request for proposal (RFP) and sought input from Council liaison, DPW and the Borough's Administrator. RFP was then distributed to local tree services (Atlantic Tree Service, Avery Tree Service)

and to the Monmouth County Shade Tree Division. Mr. Gerth and Ms. Wattlely met with representatives of each tree service to review scope of work. STC received bids in the \$6,000 to \$7,000 range. Slight variations in each proposal make head-to-head comparisons challenging. Mr. Gerth submitted request to Council for \$7,000 to proceed with the work.

D. Shrewsbury Volunteer Brigade

- Heritage Green/DPW Project - 9 members of the Heritage Green Homeowners Association (HOA) and 4 members of the STC Volunteer Brigade (Mr. Gerth, Minis and Slattery, and Ms. Russell) contributed 30 hours collectively on August 22 to prune 40+ White Pines. In the words of the HOA members: it looks beautiful! Great!
- Obre Place/Rt. 35 Rectangel - Ms. Russell has agreed to collaborate with Ms. E. Preissler (Obre Place resident) on a simple landscape design for this location. Mr. Gerth will speak to Mr. Neis (DPW Foreman) to ask that DPW clear the area and integrate compost into the site. This will set the stage for developing a longer-term plan for the site.
- **2015 Tree Plantings Wish List** - No updates

IV. CFMP STATUS, IMPLEMENTATION, & UPDATES: No updates

V. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD:

STC welcomed Mr. W. Moore (Landscape Architect) and Mr. J. Kourgelis (CEO Shadowbrook) to the meeting. Prior to this meeting, Mr. Gerth reviewed the preliminary landscape plans for the Shadowbrook and provided his comments to the Planning/Zoning Board Secretary (Ms. Kelleher). These comments were forwarded to Mr. Moore prior to this meeting

Mr. Moore presented the preliminary landscape plans for the Shadowbrook. Mr. Kourgelis provided perspectives on the type of business the Shadowbrook is hoping to grow into. STC, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Kourgelis toured the Shadowbrook property to better visualize the plans in relation to the site. A couple of neighbors adjacent to the Shadowbrook property (Ms. Preissler, Mr. Drogonetti) joined the tour.

STC was given the opportunity to raise their concerns and those of the residents they've heard from with Mr. Moore and Mr. Kourgelis. Mr. Moore and Mr Kourgelis thanked STC for their input and indicated that updated landscape plans would be developed that respond to the concerns raised.

VI. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public comment

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

VIII. NEXT MEETING - Saturday, October 8, 2015 at 7 pm (rescheduled from the 10th)

Bill Gerth, Chairperson