



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

419 Sycamore Avenue
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
Telephone 732-741-4200

Minutes of Regular Meeting Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)

March 9, 2019

Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Bill Gerth, Chairperson
Doug Keiper
Jim Lemyre
Stuart Minis
Patrick Slattery

Absent

Kim Doran Eulner*
Larry Lobaugh
Mary Russell
Betsy Wattley

* 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

Minutes to STC's February 2019 meeting have been posted to the Borough's web-site.

II. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tree of Interest - *Prunus avium* 'Bing Cherry' - called America's favorite cherry tree.

B. Conferences/Seminars: STC members encouraged to attend one or more of the following:

- Backyard Forestry - New Jersey's Rare Plants, Thursday, March 14, 2019 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Forest Resource Education Center, 495 Don Connor Boulevard, Jackson. W. Gerth planning to attend.
- NJ Forestry Association - 44th Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 16, 2019, Cook Campus Center, Rutgers, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick.
- Ocean Township Library - 'How Trees Really Grow', Bill Brash, Wednesday, March 20 at 7 pm.
- CORE Training - Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Holly House at Rutgers Garden, New Brunswick, NJ. K. Doran Eulner planning to attend.
- Monmouth County Shade Tree Spring Forum - Wednesday, March 27, 2019 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Monmouth County Fire Academy, 1027 Hwy 33 East, Freehold. W. Gerth will speak on establishing municipal tree canopy goal.
- Invasive Species Strike Team Conference - March 27, 2019 at Dukes Farm - Coach Barn.

III. RESIDENT, BUSINESS, UTILITY INQUIRIES/ACTIONS

- Code Enforcement Officer (P. Carnes) - requested inspection of tree at 187 Sycamore. Limb failure at defective juncture with trunk. Resident had tree removed.
- Shrewsbury Borough School - STC providing assistance in obtaining and installing a 'Red Oak' for Route 35.

IV. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Conference/Seminar Debriefs:** None
- B. Newman Springs Treescape Vision:** In anticipation of commercial development along Newman Springs Road between Route 35 and Shrewsbury Avenue, STC agreed to create a vision for a unified treescape along Newman Springs Road. STC to consider developing a pictorial panoramic of the Shrewsbury side of Newman Springs. STC members will also begin to identify elements of successful treescapes in other communities (eg., Route 17 around Paramus).
- C. Borough Newsletter Articles:** STC submitted article titled 'New Trees in Shrewsbury' for Winter edition of newsletter. STC members will develop topic ideas for the Spring, Summer and Fall issues. Mr. Lemyre will check if there are any topics of interest in past NYC Park's newsletters.
- D. NJ Proposed Legislation (S2505) Vegetation Management** - STC members contacted Vin Gopel's (State Senator) office voice concerns about proposed NJ legislation (known as 'Vegetative Management Response Act': State Senate S2505 and State Assembly A2558) that would exempt public utilities and cable TV companies from complying with local laws on tree removal and cutting.
- E. Proposed 2019 Budget:** Proposed budget of \$12,800 (approximately 10% less than in 2018). Budget workshops scheduled for March 16 and March 18, 2019. STC members encouraged to attend and advocate for tree removal funds within DPW's budget.
- F. Annual Reports** - The 2018 CFMP Annual Accomplishment Report and the Tree City USA Recertification were sign-off on by the Mayor (E. Anderson). Meeting held on February 11, 2019 with the Mayor, Council Liaison (K. Doran Eulner), Clerk (M. Muttie), Mr. Gerth and Mr. Minis to provide historical background on the importance of these reports to the Borough. Both reports were submitted, CFMP AAR to NJ Urban & Community Forestry and Tree City USA Recertification to Arbor Day Foundation, by Mr. Gerth on February 14, 2019.
- G. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant**
- Trees delivered for Manson Park component of CSIP grant. Installation scheduled for Monday March 11.
 - Pillari unable locate a *Picea pungens* 'Moerheim'. Alternative varieties (e.g., Blue Diamond, Thompsen, Baby Blue) unavailable. STC thinks an *Abies concolor* (White Fir) is a suitable alternative as it is urban tolerant. A 3rd 'Hoopsi' will be chosen to compliment the other two 'Hoopsi' if other alternatives prove unavailable or unsuitable.
- H. Borough Tree/Shrub Maintenance:**
- DPW Training Program - Discussed establishing a training session on light pruning for DPW grounds crew. Ms. Eulner asked (personal communications) whether this is something STC could conduct. Mr. Lemyre will provide an existing course syllabus that STC can draw upon should Council/DPW wish to pursue.
 - Explored integrating seed mixes from Prairie Nursery (see catalog) as possible compliment to Ironweed, Goldenrod and Karl Forester grass along west perimeter of Municipal Complex where brush and invasive vines were cleared. STC thought it was a cost-efficient way to proceed.

- Volunteer Brigade - STC discussed targets for pruning this Spring. A couple of options to consider: European Hop Hornbeams at entrance to Boro Hall, inside perimeter of Manson Park adjacent to the Sycamores along Route 35, Okame Cherry Trees at entrance to Municipal Complex, and trees along pathways at the Municipal Complex.
- Brummer's Tree Service - work to be scheduled early in 2019 to clean-up dead wood from Sycamores overhanging Manson Park and scrappy trees/shrubs exposed by the invasive vine control. Quote provided at end of 2018 for \$995.

I. 2019 Tree Planting Wish List:

- R. Boehler (91 Robinson Place) - Pillari has provided a quote and will install 'Autumn Blaze' Red Maple (*Acer x freemanii*)

V. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD: None

VI. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Lemyre motioned, Mr. Minis seconded, to adjourn meeting.

VIII. NEXT MEETING - Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 8:30 am.

Bill Gerth, Chairperson