



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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Minutes of Regular Meeting
Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)
August 9, 2014

Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Bill Gerth, Chairperson
Mike De Nofa (Council Liaison)*
Ellen Preissler
Mary Russell
Patrick Slattery
Betsy Wattley

Absent

Doug Keiper
Stuart Minis
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

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

II. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mr. Gerth announced he will ask STC members at the next STC meeting (September) of their intent to attend this year's NJ Shade Tree Federation annual meeting October 24 and 25 in Cherry Hill, NJ and then submit registration materials.
- B. Mr. Gerth reported receiving/responding to the following resident/business inquiries:
 - o J. Rabon (N. Park) - concerned about car speed indicator nailed to tree on Park Avenue. This was inadvertently posted by new traffic officer: subsequently taken down in timely fashion.
 - o T. Gallo (22 Trafalgar) - concerned about declining ash trees, lightning strike on one tree, STC imposed ash tree planting in 2008. Provided write-up on ash tree problems (rust, anthracnose, Emerald Ash Borer).
 - o K. Kane (Aspen Tree Service) - requested permission to remove dead Cottonwood at 486 Sycamore - permission granted.
 - o L. Royce (29 Silverbrook) - distressed/dying Pin Oak. Visited residence to visually inspect tree. Advised homeowner tree not imminently hazardous and wait

to see next year if tree rebounds. Subsequent discussion at STC meeting suggests that mushroom growth (armillaria root rot?) at base of tree may indicate a weakness that needs more immediate attention. Mr. Gerth will reach back out to homeowner and advise.

III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Shrewsbury Community Day (October 18) Planning** - STC agreed to have a information table at this event. Mr. Gerth suggested integrating a Champion Trees of Shrewsbury initiative. Mrs. Preissler offered to take lead for the day.
- B. Newsletter Article** - Mr. Slattery will write next STC article on end-of-season clean-up for the October issue of the Shrewsbury Community Newsletter (due Sept.10).
- C. L.P. Statile** - STC agreed to visit nursery after September STC meeting.
- D. Tree Trimming/Pruning (Park Avenue Island)** - Mr. Gerth met with Mr. R. Wentway (DPW Manager) to plan for trimming trees on islands on Park Avenue. Two phase approach will be taken: Phase I - DPW crews will trim/prune trees within their reach (around 50' with bucket truck) of dead branches and other branches/limbs designated by STC. Phase II - STC will solicit bids from tree services for trimming/pruning beyond reach of DPW once their work is completed. Mr. Gerth inquired with the Borough Administrator (Mr. T. Seamans) about use of open space money for outside tree services and was informed this was a legitimate use of these monies.
- E. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** - Backgrounder titled 'Ash Trees - Anthracnose, Ash Rust or Emerald Ash Borer?' has been posted to STC website. Monmouth County STC has set EAB trap in ash tree on Park Avenue.
- F. Shrewsbury Borough Tree Ordinances Review** - STC reviewed tree related ordinances related to 'Tree Planting Requirements'. Mr. Slattery facilitated this review. Mr. Slattery provided STC with ANSI and ISA brochures on best tree planting practices. Mr. De Nofa clarified process for making changes to the ordinances: STC needs simply to redline and rewrite sections of the ordinance as needed and propose changes to the Mayor/Council.
- G. STC Volunteer Brigade** - STC collectively donated 1 hour of time above and beyond the STC meeting. Overall, 1 shade tree (Sycamore) near parking lot berm was trimmed/pruned.

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

V. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD: No plans to review

VI. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public comment

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Preissler made a motion to adjourn meeting. Mr. Slattery seconded the motion.

VIII. NEXT MEETING - Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

Bill Gerth, Chairperson