



# BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)  
July 8, 2017

Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

### Present

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

### Absent

\* 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 meeting have been posted to the Borough's web-site.

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

- A. Tree of Merit this month is the Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*).
- B. Mr. Gerth completed survey from the NJ Urban and Community Forestry division regarding existence and use of tree inventories in Shrewsbury.
- C. NJ Shade Tree Federation 92nd Conference will take place October 19 (Thursday) and 20th (Friday) in Cherry Hill, NJ. STC members encouraged to attend.
- D. Mr. Gerth received communication from Councilwoman DesAsadourian regarding Sickles Park. Mr. Gerth reached out to Councilwoman but has not heard back.
- E. Mr. Burden provided update on activities in the Borough. AutoZone has pulled application. The management of the Grove will take over maintaining landscape at Patriots Isle. Informed that the Londonplanes/Sycamores lining Sycamore Avenue in proximity to the Municipal Complex were planted in 1876.

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

- A. The ENCLAVE - inspected trees with Toll Brothers and HOA
- B. C. Conduro (52 Thomas Ave) - consult on removing established Maple Tree. Informed that Borough has Tree Canopy Goal. Removed tree needs replace with tree(s) that at maturity has diameter equal or greater than tree replaced. Homeowner decided to keep tree.
- C. K. Diehl (78 Obre Pl) - took tree down to make way for new garage. Provided Tree Book and offered new tree once construction is completed.
- D. G. Lucking (42 Dorchester) requested replacement tree for removed Green Ash. Recommended Willow Oak.
- E. J. Fernandez (100 West End Ave) - concern tree may damage property. Clarified trees are homeowner responsibility.
- F. K. Glossbrenner (36 Meadow) - new construction, seeking advice on tree removal. Nice tree line, suggested thinning out volunteer Norway Maples.
- G. S. Scheffling (via email to Borough web-site) - seeking shade tree, sent email, no response.
- H. D. Presti (99 Birch) - dead limbs on Pin Oaks, advised that trees are homeowner's responsibility, received very nice thank you note from Ms. Presti.

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

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

- Rutgers Lecture - Richard Buckley - Tree Killing Insects - June 26 - Southern Pine Beetle has crossed natural barrier in in Southern NJ and is moving north. It may be a future issue in Monmouth County and Shrewsbury.

##### **B. Tree City USA Growth Award** - STC agreed to consider achieving a growth award as a way to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year of certification in 2018. Ms. Wattlely will review criteria and make recommendation to STC regarding award opportunities

##### **C. 2017 Approved Budget:** Original budget \$14,000; expended \$278; committed \$9,744 (For-Shore \$5,244; Brummer's \$4,500); remaining \$3,978.

##### **D. 2017 Grant Requests:**

- CSIP Grants - proposal for Reforestation/Tree planting grant (\$30,000) submitted May 15, 2017. Grant is budget neutral to the Borough. Awards anticipated end of July/early August.

##### **E. Borough Tree/Shrub Multi-year Maintenance Plan Development:**

- Invasive Vine Control - updated quote, plan of action received by For-Shore Weed Control, need to consider how best to clean up treated areas. Initiation in September/October. Consider involving residents surrounding the Municipal Complex in the clean-up. Consider approaches for obtaining DPW commitment to help in clean-up. One idea to consider is renting a brush cutter to facilitate clean-up.
- Structural Pruning - reestablished contact with Brummer's Tree Service, informed that work could be done anytime before end of year.
- Emerald Ash Borer - Sav-A-Tree quote of \$3,936.00 for trunk injections for 12 White Ashes on Park Avenue. Two trees of questionable value as they are severely damaged and may need removed. Save \$656 by not treating two damaged trees. Will include in 2018 budget as a placeholder. Will obtain quotes from Aspen and Bartlett in 2018.

##### **F. STC Letters Related to Declining/Dead Trees in RoW:** no notifications pending.

##### **G. 2017 Tree Planting Wish List:**

- J. Luckenbill (92 E End Ave) - x1-2 trees - Red Buckeye (other species)
- G. Lucking (42 Dorchester) - x1-2 new trees - Willow Oak
- S. Milnes (4 Sunnybank) - moved, delete from list

- M. Shoukas (48 Parker Place) - undecided, delete from list
- S. Minis (35 Thomas Avenue) - x1 shade tree
- R. Procopio (23 E End Avenue) - x1 tricolor Beech
- R. Mouyanar (15 Winding Brook Way) - x1-2 Crimson King, subject to figuring out what has caused decline of previous Crimson Kings planted in same location.

V. **PLANNING/ZONING BOARD**: Mr. Minis reports that the dead/dying honey locust trees at 89 Newman Springs have been replaced.

VI. **MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**: no public attendees

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**: Ms. Wattleby motioned, Mr. Keiper seconded, to adjourn meeting.

VIII. **NEXT MEETING** - Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 8:30 am

Bill Gerth, Chairperson