



# 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)  
December 14, 2019  
Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

### Present

Bill Gerth, Chairperson  
Kim Doran Eulner\*  
Doug Keiper  
Jim Lemyre  
Stuart Minis  
Patrick Slattery

### Absent

Larry Lobaugh  
Mary Russell  
Betsy Wattley

\* 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 October 2019 meeting have been posted to the Borough's web-site.

## **II. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. November's STC meeting was cancelled.
- B. Tree of Interest - Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) – sometimes called the 'mother and father' tree.
- C. Science article – mysterious disease starting to kill American beech trees. Some researchers believe a nematode native to Asia is causing the disease.
- D. WSJ article – secret messages of swaying trees: height, mass (trunk/limbs, leaves, water).
- E. Conferences/Seminars:
  - NJ Champion Big Tree Program - January 8, 2020 (@ 9:30 am) at Forest Resource Education Center, Jackson.
  - NJ Community Forestry Council - January 9, 2020 (10 am) at Forest Resource Education Center, Jackson.

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

- K. Burke (HOA – the ENCLAVE) – provided input into removal/remediation of select mature Pin Oaks along Avenue of Two Commons. Tree in middle of row is splitting and needs removed.

- C. Tracey (168 Spruce) – inspected trees in backyard for sign/symptoms of hazards. Recommended pruning.

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

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

- NJ Shade Tree Federation 94th Annual Conference - October 24-25, 2019 in Atlantic City. W. Gerth attended both days, M. Russell and S. Minis attended Oct. 25. First year for separate Municipal and LTE/LTCO tracks.
- Municipal Shade Tree Management at Rutgers - November 13, 2019. W. Gerth attended. Shrewsbury should consider obtaining a GIS system that can be shared by DPW, STC, Borough Engineer, Hose Company, and other stakeholders. STC would benefit from a system that would allow integration of tree inventory data. K. Doran-Eulner will follow-up with Borough Engineer to see if this might be of interest. A repository of STC ordinances was obtained that will be useful to consider when re-evaluating shade tree ordinances for the Borough.
- Pruning Basics Class conducted by STC members for residents on November 16. Special thanks to Kim (inspiration, communications), Stu (tree owner's manual, equipment) and Jim (course input, hands-on). The class was attended by 8 residents and 1 non-resident. Favorable attendee feedback was received. Conducted light pruning at Boro Hall. STC agreed to make this an annual event. Mr. Slattery suggested we conduct the class in the spring as homeowners will be eager to apply their new skills as the weather improved. STC agreed to conduct the class as a recurring event on the third Saturday of April in place of the monthly meeting.

**B. Budgets (2019 and Proposed 2020):** estimated 2019 expenditures \$12,776; proposed 2020 budget is \$13,400 representing a 4.6% increase from 2019. Increase due entirely from additional landscape maintenance at the Wardell House.

**C. Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) –** No updates.

**D. Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant:** Conducted site inspection with UN UCF Forester (M. Martini) on December 13. No issues. Final inspection will be in December 2020.

##### **E. Borough Tree/Shrub Maintenance:**

- Declining mature Sycamore tree along Sycamore Avenue was removed by County STC.
- Mr. Gerth and Ms. Doran-Eulner developed fact sheet of the pros/cons of removal/replacement of legacy Ash trees along Park Avenue for neighboring residents. Went door-to-door on October 27, 2019 to provide information to residents and seek their input. Many residents cherish the islands and the trees. Residents appreciated the outreach.
- Reviewed preliminary landscape plans for Municipal Complex (northeast area of Manson Park, northwest area of Gopher Field). Agreed to obtain stakeholder (e.g., EC, RC, DPW, OS, SCG, SGC, residents) input.

**F. 2019 Tree Planting List:** trees planted by Conrad Smith's Nursery on 1Nov2019 for:

- D. Skop (65 Borden Street) - 'Autumn Blaze' Maple. Installed buck rub protection.
- R. Victor (45 Rosewood Drive) - 'Elizabeth' Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*).
- C. Leslie (15 Sickles) - Japanese Maple (e.g., Bloodgood).

#### **V. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD:**

- Moore Residence (30 Corn Lane; Williamsburg Drive) - landscape plans from KBA Engineering Services (J. Kociuba) received, reviewed and input provided back by STC on 14Nov19.

**VI. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:** None

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

**VIII. NEXT MEETING** - Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 8:30 am.

Bill Gerth, Chairperson