

City of Plainfield  
Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2019 - 7:30 pm  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Avenue  
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

**Standing Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm. Present were Planning Liaison April Stefel, Vanessa Doman, Drue Doman, Oscar Riba and Plainfield DPW liaison, Carmine Louise. Barbara Spellmeyer joined at 7:52 pm.
2. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Publication was handled by the Planning Division.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Budget Uses this Month:** Not discussed.

**Business Agenda:**

1. **Arbor Day:** April Stefel distributed copies of the Arbor Day event program to members of the STC and provided Carmine Louise with copies for distribution, day of event.

Discussion regarding planting of specimen tree at the War Memorial Triangle across from the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church was revisited, considering the fact that the planting would not be on city property as is typically the case. Concern was expressed by a few members, including DPW Liaison Carmine Louise as to the location with following concerns: a) possible detractor from the War Memorial itself; b) sight-line issues affecting vehicular traffic as the tree grows; c) longevity of the tree as it would be situated in what is, generally, considered a high-traffic area; d) aesthetic, visual balance of one tree planting in this particular location. After a spirited discussion, it was decided to move forward with this planting and address any of the above referenced concerns as they come about in the future.

DPW Liaison Carmine Louise advised that DPW Superintendent would source all materials and supplies necessary for the Arbor Day event as well as coordination of school children groups to be present at the ceremony. He also advised that members of the Plainfield DPW would be present the day of event to assist with signage and organization of materials and supplies to be distributed to children, including pails and flowering plants for ceremonial planting.

April Stefel indicated she would follow up to ensure that the Proclamation would be updated and ready for presentation.

Chairman, Oscar Riba, confirmed that he would be present at the event to present on behalf of the STC.

**2. Recruitment of new STC members:**

April Stefel advised that Drue Doman's application for member of the STC was submitted to the Mayor's office for review. Ms. Stefel reported that as of this date no further action was taken for approval and she would follow up on status of application.

Discussion ensued regarding the nomination of Charles Weltner to the STC and pushback received from the Mayor regarding his nomination. Barbara Spellmeyer expressed interest in writing a letter on behalf of the STC requesting reconsideration of Mr. Weltner's nomination. The letter will be presented at the next meeting of the STC for review.

Additional discussion followed regarding recruitment of additional members for the STC. Members were asked to consider submitting additional names for consideration.

### **3. Ward Tree Survey / Planting Locations:**

STC Members discussed ward survey to locate optimal sites for up to 20 tree plantings in each of the 4 wards, reports to be completed and submitted by May 31, 2019.

The following is a summary of ward survey assignments: Vanessa Doman - Ward 1; Barbara Spellmeyer - Ward 2; Oscar Riba - Ward 3; Barbara Spellmeyer and Oscar Riba - Ward 4.

### **4. Continuing Education Units:**

April Stefel reminded members to make every effort to take advantage of webinars. Also, Ms. Stefel polled members to determine who would be interested in attending the Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference in October. None of the members confirmed their attendance to the annual conference as of this meeting.

### **5. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm. Next meeting scheduled for May 22, 2019.