

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 21, 2019, 7:30 pm
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Avenue, Second Floor Conference Room
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Regular Monthly Meeting

Standing Agenda:

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm. Present were Oscar Riba, Barbara Spellmeyer, Drue Doman, Mayra Paredes and Planning Liaison April Stefel. Vanessa Doman arrived at 7:40. Oscar took the opportunity to welcome Mayra to the Commission.
2. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Publication was handled by the Planning Division.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the June 26 meeting will be presented at the next meeting.
4. **Old Business**
 - A. **Tree City USA update.** April announced that Tree City flags and sign have yet to be posted. Oscar mentioned that some cities post a plaque commemorating the many years that it has held that honor. Members discussed doing the same.
 - B. **PMUA Environment Fair.** Commission members discussed the STC's participation in the upcoming Fair. Members decided on the topics for flyers to be displayed. These included sheets on the Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lantern Fly, the Children's Arbor Day activity sheet and the trifold detailing the care of newly planted trees. Members also resolved to create a pamphlet on deer-resistant plants, if time allowed. In addition, Barbara announced that she had potted 40 spider plants to be given away at the event. Oscar and Drue volunteered for the 10:30-12:30 shift while Barbara and Mayra offered to take the 12:30-3:00 shift. April offered to make copies of all materials.
 - C. **Continuing Education Credits.** April announced that she has completed two webinars, while Vanessa has completed one.

Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference (October 24-25). Mayra and Drue, both of whom would attend in order to receive their CORE Training, were given an overview of

the event. Barbara, Vanessa and April all expressed their desire to attend. The location this year will be Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City.

D. **Ward Reports.** Members discussed surveys of their wards and the need to standardize the reports to include information on the condition of existing trees, the location for new plantings, the width of tree lawns and the presence of overhead wires and other complications.

E. **Fall Planting of New Trees.** Oscar asked April to report on December plantings of new trees, and she explained that arrangements were proceeding on schedule. Residents who made tree requests during the allotted window of time will receive their trees.

5. **New Business**

A. **Westfield Tree Ordinance.** Oscar circulated a newspaper article describing a change in the Westfield Tree Ordinance giving trees enhanced protection.

B. **Public Talk/Lecture on Trees.** Members discussed the possibility of re-inviting Rutgers Adjunct Professor Bruce Crawford for another talk. He sent the Commission a list of 47 possible topics. After some discussion, members decided on Program 25, "Perennials for Year Round Interest." Oscar suggested a change of venue from the Plainfield Public Library to the Du Cret School of the Arts. Possible dates discussed were in late October or early November.

C. **Wawa Offer of Arbor Day Funding.** Members discussed the offer by the Wawa franchise to fund our Arbor Day event. Members resolved to decline their offer but would urge them instead to make a donation to the Plainfield Tree Trust. The Commission would gratefully acknowledge their gesture on an appropriate public occasion.

6. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 8:35. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25 at 7:30.