

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of August 24, 2016 7:30 pm
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Ave., Second Floor Conference Room
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Jan Massey, Mary Burgwinkle, Oscar Riba and Barbara Spellmeyer. Lynne Wallace was not present. April Stefel, Liaison to Shade Tree Commission from Planning Division also attended. Plainfield resident Kelley Boero also attended the meeting.

2. Open Public Meeting Act: Publication was handled by the Planning Division.

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the July 27, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved with one editing change.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Application by Kelley J. Boero

Kelley Boero has submitted an application for appointment to Shade Tree Commission to the Mayor's Office. Jan Massey agreed to follow up on the status.

CEU and CORE Training Opportunities

Mr. Simone pointed out the opportunities Ms. Stefel emailed to Commissioners. Commissioners agreed that it was helpful and that she should continue to prompt us on CEU.

CSIP Grant

Ms. Stefel forwarded an email from New Jersey Forest Service that the CSIP Grant was approved in the amount of \$27,900 for Reforestation/Tree Planting in the Fourth Ward. The work period began August 4, 2016. She reported that the original documents have not been received at this juncture.

Community Forestry Management Plan

Ms. Burgwinkle reported that she is 50% finished with the edits to the draft prepared by Shari Spero, STC's consultant for drafting the five year update of the CFMP and will be finished in early September.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle thanked Planner Bill Nierstedt for searching for Shade Tree references in the Zoning and Planning sections of the Municipal Code. There was a brief discussion of the need to update the Shade Tree ordinance, move it from the Boards and Commissions section of the Municipal Code, reconcile it to the Trees and Vegetation ordinance in Chapter 15 and move both to the Land Use Section of the Municipal Code. Ms. Burgwinkle will work on those revisions when she finishes the review of the draft CFMP.

2016 Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects (Philip Wolf –Remington Vernick & Arango Engineers)

Mr. Simone advised that the Roadway Improvement projects are proceeding and that 206 trees will be replanted in the following neighborhoods with the following species:

Coolidge Street / Frances Lane / Linbarger Avenue / Loretta Terrace / Maxson Place / Salem Road / Shirley Street - Cercis Canadensis "Appalchian Red"

Adam Circle - Quercus palustris, Pin Oak

Salem Road - Platanus × acerifolia London Plaintree

East 2nd Street (Leland to Terrill) – Little Leaf Linden and Amur Maples

Citizens are generally being cooperative and help will be sought from City Council if we need it to talk to them.

Greening of Union County 2016 – Tree Selection / Citizens Request for Trees

STC has learned that Barbato will be Union County's contractor for trees and planting, will be contacted to let them know the species we are requesting. Regarding citizen requests for trees, citizens will be asked to call back in the late winter or spring for inclusion on the list for the 2017 Fall Planting.

Public Works - Tree Removal/ Stump Grinding /Stake removal

Mr. Simone asked Commissioners to get their lists for tree maintenance and trees in decline to John Louise, he has been noticing many trees in decline while driving around town.

STC / Planning Board Site Applications

Mr. Simone brought site plans that call for planting of trees and news of a suggested donation of trees to the meeting for review by the Commission.

1. **St. Mary's Church (W. Sixth St. / W. Fifth St. / Liberty St.)** – Dr. Clemente from Watchung does some work with parishioners at St. Mary's and would like to donate 50 trees to be planted in that neighborhood.

Commissioners suggested that his grant might include fewer trees with some money to water and watch them after planting so that they will have a better chance of survival.

2. **Twin City Supermarket (600 Park. Ave. / E. Sixth St.)**-The owner of this property is doing voluntary upgrade to the space with 410 feet of streetscape. Zoning Control ordinance provides that developers who do improvements need to plant at least one tree every 40 feet. It was suggested that (9) Ginkgo Biloba "Autumn Gold" trees be planted. Owner asked for help, he would buy the trees if Shade Tree would install them. Shade Tree does not have a vendor to do this sort of work, as we plant under grants that include installation by the grantor contractor. Commissioners also felt that this would set a precedent where developers would look to our city budget to pay for their trees. It was suggested that the Economic Development director see if there are UEZ funds to help with this, if it is necessary to do something like this.

3. **700 Park Avenue** – (4) Ginkgo Biloba 'Princeton Sentry' - Developer of this building will plant these trees, Commissioners agreed.

4. **1405 Martine Avenue** – The new homeowners of this property have applied to plant trees in the public right of way using their own funds. They suggested planting two trees, gave the Commission two species to choose from, the Commission chose (2) Karpick Red Maple.

5. **1369-1403 South Ave.**- This project is being heard by Zoning, developer suggesting planting (2) Hedge Maples. Commission approved of these trees, provided that the project is ultimately approved by Zoning.

6. **915-919 North Ave.** -The owner of this property planted Callory Pear trees which are not durable trees, along with other plantings without city approval. We will make an effort to have them replaced with Hedge Maples.

7. **Shiloh Baptist Church, 515 W. Fourth St.** - The church has received approval to sell a property and to repave and light their parking lots. They are proposing (12) total Zelkova Serrata 'Village Green' and Acer Rubrum 'October Glory'. Commission agreed with these plantings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. Next meeting is September 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm.