

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of January 27, 2016 7:00 pm
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Ave., Second Floor Conference Room
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

1. Roll Call and Call to Order: Chair Peter Simone called the meeting to order at 7:05. Present were Mr. Simone, Mary Burgwinkle, Jan Massey, Barbara Spellmeyer, Oscar Riba and Lynne Wallace. April Stefel, Planning Division Liaison also attended, as well as Shari Spero, CTE, of CME Associates.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners deferred review of the December 2015 minutes until the February 2016 meeting to allow more time for meeting with Ms. Shari Spero, the consultant who will work with STC on the 2016 revision to the Community Forestry Management Plan.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

Tree Maintenance by Orr/Tree Trimming by Asplundh for PSE&G/Road Improvements

Mr. Simone gave the Commissioners a short briefing on the above topics to allow maximum time to work with Ms. Spero. Orr Tree Service did a commendable job trimming trees on heavily traveled Ward 3 trees, although the trimming took longer than expected because the large old trees were very overgrown. STC will use part of its budget in 2016 to do tree trimming on heavily traveled streets in a ward to be determined. Meanwhile, PSE&G engaged Asplundh to do mandated tree trimming around wires. Unfortunately they overlapped with Orr's in several places and did very severe pruning. Mr. Simone had been advised by PSE&G representative Sheridan Balmeo that door tags would be placed in the neighborhoods where trimming would take place. It does not appear as though this happened, and there was some feedback from residents. Ms. Burgwinkle agreed to contact Ms. Balmeo to discuss whether the door hanger procedure was followed. In the Coolidge Street neighborhood, PSE&G trimming was followed by removal of old London Planes in advance of road repaving and improvements. There was some negative feedback, and advance notice would have been helpful. Ms. Burgwinkle and Ms. Massey will obtain the improvement maps from Mr. Simone and will check to see that the trees scheduled to be removed were actually removed. Also, more tree guards were ordered and have arrived so that Ms. Spellmeyer can install them to protect young trees from rutting and other dangers.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle reported that Corporation Counsel responded to her request to review our proposed notice to citizens on 1/4/16, approving the notice, but not answering the other questions in the memo. She will continue to follow up.

NJDEP Green Communities Grant/Community Forestry Management Plan

The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Spero, and the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing our comments on the 2011 5 year CFMP and our goals for the 2016 version. A wide ranging discussion ensued. Ms. Burgwinkle will send pdf of the 2011 CFMP, Ms. Stefel will provide updated maps and ward maps, Ms. Spero was given contact information for John Louise for budget information, Mr. Simone will get an electronic version of the Streetscape guidelines. Ms. Spero will start drafting.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next meeting is February 24, 2016 at 7:30 pm.