

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of December 14, 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 7:30 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Mary Burgwinkle, Barbara Spellmeyer, Kelley Boreo, Oscar Riba and Jan Massey. April Stefel, Liaison to Shade Tree Commission from Planning Division also attended.
2. Open Public Meeting Act: Publication was handled by the Planning Division.
3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved with an editing change.
4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

Community Forestry Management Plan

STC's 5 year Community Forestry Management Plan was approved by the State via letter dated 11/29/2016. The revision covers 2016 through 2020. Ms. Stefel is in the process of paying the \$3,500 invoice from CME. A grant covers all but \$1,500 of the cost, the City will be reimbursed from the grant after making the payment.

2016 Tree City USA Recertification

Ms. Stefel has completed this and sent it to Arbor Day Foundation.

STC Application

There is a vacancy on the STC. Ms. Burgwinkle agreed to find a replacement in consultation with the administration.

2017 Public Notice Annual Calendar

STC meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of each calendar month. In 2016, the November and December meetings were moved to the third Wednesday to avoid conflicts with holidays. We will continue that practice in 2017.

2017 STC Budget

Mr. Simone and Ms. Stefel will work on the budget, which Ms. Stefel has already drafted. For 2016, \$31,644,54 was the balance in the budget at the end of November. We have spent \$880 on Akebono Cherry Trees planted on Melrose Place, \$20,000 is owed to L. Barbato, the Union

County Tree Contractor for the fall planting and \$1500 to the CFMP contractor. Mr. Simone will call contractors to trim trees with the \$9,262.54 balance.

2017 Arbor Day

Mr. Simone suggested that Arbor Day be held at the YMCA building on Watchung Ave. across the street from City Hall. The building is owned by the City and is undergoing renovation with a grant. Mr. Simone has actively helped with design and plant selection. Ms. Burgwinkle asked Commissioners to think about trees to honor on Arbor Day. She suggested a White Oak and a Pine tree at 1300 Prospect Avenue on the corner of Hillside, which is in a historic district. In addition, she suggested the very large Sycamore on the front lawn of 1415 Prospect Avenue. Mr. Riba suggested the large Fir in the front yard of 1332 Prospect Ave. Ms. Stefel suggested the Himalayan Pine on Park Avenue across the street from the library. Ms. Spellmeyer suggested the very large Ewes at the end of Martine Avenue. She will look at the suggested trees and the Commission will discuss at the next meeting.

Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects & Public Notice

Cambridge Avenue and Gresham Road were included in the Roadway Improvement program because of some extra money. The trees for Cambridge were Redbuds (*Cercis Canadensis* "Appalachian Red") and have been planted after removal of some large trees where root system would be compromised if they were left up. Large London Plane and Red Oaks were removed from Gresham, and the road repair is underway. Redbuds and Little Leaf Lindens have been planted. Citizens were notified that trees would be planted to replace the trees taken out to do the improvements and were given the opportunity to decline a tree. Some did not decline, and then requested removal of the new trees. Mr. Simone will investigate whether the citizens can be charged for the removal.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle will work on the ordinance revisions and notices now that the CFMP has been accepted in final with no further work to be done. Ms. Spellmeyer and Ms. Boreo presented a second draft of a pamphlet to be published and posted and distributed to citizens about the care and value of trees. Commissioners offered comments and another draft is forthcoming.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017.