

**City of Plainfield**  
**Shade Tree Commission**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 22, 2017 - 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, Mary Burgwinkle, Barbara Spellmeyer, Oscar Riba and Jan Massey. Kelley Boero was excused. Ms. Vanessa Doman, 1418 W. Fourth St., 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 January 25, 2017 Reorganization Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Application-Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the STC. Ms. Vanessa Doman is considering applying for the vacancy and attended the meeting.

2017 Arbor Day

Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 28, 2017 on City Hall Plaza. Plantings will be done across the street at the YMCA building on Watchung Ave. across the street from City Hall. Mr. Simone is considering planting Cornus Kousa and Nandina Bamboo, among other things. The building is owned by the City and operated by the YMCA, which has obtained a grant to make improvements, and landscaping is a condition of its approval. The Board members reviewed a list of exceptional trees in Plainfield suggested by Commissioners and are leaning toward honoring a large Fir and a large Himalayan Pine at the ceremony. All Commissioners should continue to suggest trees to honor. A list will be compiled and kept for future reference. A copy of the brochure that Ms. Spellmeyer and Ms. Boero are working on with Mr. Riba will be available for distribution. Ms. Burgwinkle will work on the program, talk to John Louise, add the event to the City Calendar and will prepare a notice to place on the City Website and other blogs.

Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects & Public Notice

Ms. Massey obtained a list of all the streets to be included in Roadway improvement this year. The list was sent to all Commissioners by email. Mr. Simone is in favor of requiring homeowners to take a replacement tree if a tree is removed for road work.

### Public Works Tree Removal/Stump Grinding/Stake Removal

Mr. Simone reminded Commissioners to contact public works for removal of dead or distressed trees. He mentioned the need to remove the tree in front of the Salvation Army building.

### Grants:

NJDEP CSIP Grant, Ward 4

The CSIP Grant requires outreach, and there is a need for a pamphlet for children. Ms. Spellmeyer and Ms. Boero have drafted a pamphlet on tree care in both English and Spanish with original artwork by Ms. Spellmeyer. The current version of the draft was reviewed at the meeting. The pamphlet is very attractive and the Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the effort involved in producing it. In addition, they are drafting a simplified pamphlet for use with children who will take part in the plantings in Ward 4.

5. Other Business: Mr. Simone distributed copies of an email from the City Department of Recreation to Mr. Victor Webb who attended our February meeting. Mr. Webb is pursuing the idea of clearing dead trees to make a path near the tennis courts at Milt Campbell Park in the first wards. Mr. Webb wants to use volunteer help to do the work. The Recreation Department posed a series of questions about the project that he envisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 22, 2017 at 7:30 pm.