

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 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 7:30 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Mary Burgwinkle, Barbara Spellmeyer, Oscar Riba, Jan Massey and Kelley Boero. Ms. Vanessa Doman, 1418 W. Fourth St., has applied for appointment to STC and 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 February 22, 2017 Reorganization Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved with two editing changes.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Application-Vacancy

Ms. Vanessa Doman has applied 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 plans to order Cornus Kousa and Nandina Bamboo, along with Peonies. The building is owned by the City and STC budget will be used to buy the plantings. Mr. Simone will request that the plantings will be put in a week in advance so that they are visible that day. The Commissioners reviewed a draft of the Arbor Day program distributed by Ms. Burgwinkle and suggested several changes. Ms. Burgwinkle also circulated a flyer about the ceremony for the website and TapintoPlainfield that was edited by the Commissioners. 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 continue to work on the program with John Louise and the Mayor's office.

Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects & Public Notice

STC has not been notified of the schedule for the Roadway Improvements and will continue to ask for it.

Public Works Tree Removal/Stump Grinding/Stake Removal

Mr. Simone reminded Commissioners to contact public works for removal of dead or distressed trees. Lists compiled by Commissioners should be sent to Ms. Massey.

Planning Board Site Applications

41 Rock Ave., ZBA-2016-34 was discussed. This is a single small residence on Rock Avenue on the corner of Myrtle Avenue. There is little room for a tree and the Commissioners approved asking for a contribution to the planting fund. (This is consistent with the Municipal Code; if an applicant has a site where a tree is not feasible, they can be asked to make a contribution for a tree to be planted elsewhere).

1359-1367 South Avenue, ZBA-2012-10. This is the Dairy Queen site. The property has very little space for trees and has been landscaped with potted trees on their property and shrubs. The Commissioners approved asking for a contribution to the tree fund.

351 Hill Street, ZBA-16- --. This is a narrow one family lot across the street from St. Mary Cemetery in the first ward. The existing house has been demolished and ZBA approved building a new house on the undersized lot. Ms. Burgwinkle will look at the property and report at the next meeting.

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 are drafting a simplified pamphlet for use with children who will take part in the plantings in Ward 4. Ms. Boero has met with the teachers who will be involved. Also, the State has asked for more species to be planted (our grant had suggested 4 species for the 96 trees). Mr. Simone will work on that with Ms. April Stefel.

Greening of Union County

STC is almost at tree identification time in the wards. A discussion ensued about tree guards, especially for the trees done in the fall planting and Roadway Improvement.

There are many tree guards in Ms. Spellmeyer's garage, and there are a few in Ms. Burgwinkle's garage. Mr. Simone will order another 200 for the upcoming year.

5. Other Business:

Mr. Simone distributed the request of Mr. Dave Bernard of 724 Madison Avenue. He is repairing his sidewalk that has been pushed up by the tree in the ROW. He has requested removal of the tree. Ms. Burgwinkle agreed to look at the site and report to DPW.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 26, 2017 at 7:30 pm.