

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 23, 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, Jan Massey, Oscar Riba, Vanessa Doman and Barbara Spellmeyer. Kelley Boero was excused.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the July 28, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

Greening of Union County

Mr. Simone reported that he had sent the planting list to April Stefel, told her to assume that the planting would cost the same amount as last year. He asked for the amount that will be left in the budget after the planting and our other education and training expenses so that we can order tree trimming with the remainder of the budget. Mr. Simone has also provided a list of the trees that died from the 2016 planting.

STC/Planning Board site applications

Site at West Front and Rock Avenue, application by prospective Auto Dealer-Mr. Simone looked at the site and recommended London Plane trees.

Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects-2016 tree replacement

Mr. Simone has given the engineering firm the list of trees that have died from the 2016 road improvement work. An unusually large number of trees died on some of the streets in Brisbane Estates neighborhood.

Public Works – Tree / Stump Removal

Mr. Simone asked the commissioners to make lists of trees that need to be trimmed and other maintenance requests at their earliest convenience so that he can get the list to John Louise. Mr. Riba reported that he and Ms. Spellmeyer checked a 2015 list of more than 100 Ward 4 maintenance requests while driving in that ward. They found that a very large percentage of the requests had been completed.

2018 Tree Pruning

Discussion ensued about using 2018 budget for tree pruning and maintenance rather than large planting. Mr. Simone asked for suggestions on what to prune, and it was suggested that we use contractors to prune and maintain trees planted since 2013 since they are young and in their formative years. There was another suggestion that black plastic could be installed at the base of the young trees to prevent damage from lawn mowers and trimmers. Work can be done by contractors and DPW in proportions that we could decide based on the budget. There will be further discussion on this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2017.