

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 25, 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 7:34 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Oscar Riba, Barbara Spellmeyer, Vanessa Doman, Mary Burgwinkle and Jan Massey.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

2017 STC Budget

Mr. Simone asked April Stefel to send a budget reconciliation. We are spending approx. \$960 for plantings for the YMCA, will see what if anything is left.

Greening of Union County

Mr. Simone reported that he had the list of trees and planting locations. He will send to all of us, does not have a planting date as of now.

STC/Planning Board site applications

PB 2017-20 200-222 Plainfield Avenue. This is a gravel lot at the corner of S. 2nd St. and Plainfield Avenue. There are no trees or power lines. The trees already there will likely come down, site needs larger trees on Plainfield Avenue and smaller trees on S. 2nd St., trees every 30 feet.

PB 2017-16 201-225 Roosevelt Ave. This is a gravel lot next to the former Thul facility, now UCC. The applicant is proposing a very diverse selection of trees, Mr. Simone will select hardier 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. He has been in touch with Cynthia Smith, has not heard anything. Ms. Burgwinkle will inquire whether there is a contract that requires the former contractor to remove and replace the trees, and ask for DPW to take the trees down if there is no contract.

2018 Tree Pruning

Mr. Simone confirmed that pruning will be the goal for 2018. We will give DPW pruning lists and will use our lists of trees planted in the past 8 years or so and have an arborist prune as necessary. Commissioners will need to identify blocks that have pruning needs so that we can get the most out of the arborist.

2017 Arbor Day -YMCA plantings

We need to complete the plantings, Ms. Burgwinkle got an estimate from Barton for 10 Variegated False Holly plants and 10 Asters to add to the landscape. Planning is getting the purchase order and check. She will work with DPW to pick up and plant the items.

PSEG tree removal on Myrtle Avenue-Mr. Riba met with PSEG about the removal of large London Planes. The utility indicated that the new super utility poles going in have a wider top, and there is no room for the large trees. They will replace with Corna Kousa, one for one.

Tree Plaques Downtown-There are number of plaques that were installed downtown by trees that have since died and have been removed. We need to identify these places and replant. Mr. Simone ran into Ron Johnson, former Zoning Officer, who lives downtown. Ron offered to help out with this project as a volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2017.