

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 27, 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 7:31 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Oscar Riba, Barbara Spellmeyer, Kelley Boero and Vanessa Doman. Mary Burgwinkle and Jan Massey were excused.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the August 23, 2017 meeting and they were approved one edit.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

Greening of Union County

Mr. Simone reported that he had sent the planting list has been sent to L. Barbato. He asked for an assortment of trees that we know that we can get. He will call to make sure that the trees are in process and to get a date. Hopefully, L. Barbato will send a large crew so that it can be done in one day. He asked for someone to go out with the crew to make sure that the burlap and wire baskets are handled correctly and to interact with homeowners if necessary, as he cannot take the day off to do it. Ms. Spellmeyer said that she may be able to go out depending upon the day.

STC/Planning Board site applications

810 Central Avenue-Application for 25 apartments in a Historic District house with a large extension. Mr. Simone will bring the plans back for clarification, He noted that we do not have jurisdiction on plantings that are on their property, but will suggest street trees if necessary and will also suggest taking out volunteer trees on the property prior to shrub plantings.

1341 North Avenue-New Jersey American Water is demolishing and rebuilding three new truck bays. From the plans, STC could not tell what the applicant is proposing, he will drive by the site and send an email with planting recommendations.

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. There should be a guarantee in place for at least a year, and they should be taking down the dead trees. We will need to discuss this with DPW Director Dabney. Mr. Riba will follow-up and will find out if any trees that are taken down are being replaced. In the past, we have gotten two trees planted for every tree removed. We need to know locations for this year and what to expect for the future.

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.

We need lists for Ward 1 and Ward 3. Ms. Doman is working on Ward 1, making lists of stumps and dead trees. Ms. Boero said that she and Ms. Massey did a maintenance list for Ward 3, she will get the list. Mr. Riba asked for maintenance lists to be completed by November. He will get lists to DPW and will get a commitment to get one ward done per quarter next year.

Commissioners should use the format that Mr. Riba sent out for Ward 4. Mr. Simone got maps at City Hall, typed in the street names and indicated the requests on the map, he suggested that everyone should do this to create a template for continuity.

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.

YMCA plantings

We need to complete the plantings, Ms. Burgwinkle will find Osmanthus Goshiki (Variegated False Holly) plants and we will try to order Asters to add to the landscape. Will work to have DPW plant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2017.