

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of November 11, 2015 at 7:30 pm
1410 Evergreen Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

1. Roll Call and Call to Order: Chair Peter Simone called the meeting to order at 7:30. Present were Mr. Simone, Mary Burgwinkle, Jan Massey, Barbara Spellmeyer and Oscar Riba. April Stefel, Planning Division Liaison, was also present.

2. Open Public Meeting Act: Publication was handled by the Planning Division and notice was posted on the door at City Hall about the change in location for the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October meetings were reviewed by the Commissioners in attendance and approved with two changes.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Meeting Schedule: The December meeting will be held on 12/16/2015 (3rd Wednesday) as noticed, as the 4th Wednesday (11/23) was too close to Christmas to be convenient.

Public Works-Tree Removal/Stump Grinding/Stake Removal: Mr. Simone noted that PSEG has notified Public Works that mandatory pruning of all near wires will be done in Plainfield in the near future. Nelson was their contractor, but Asplundh has been hired. Federal law requires that the pruning be done and trimming must be done within 12 feet around tree. John Louise, Peter Simone, Sheridan Balmeo, will meet to discuss this project on 11/12/2015.

Tree Maintenance/Davey / Tamke / Caffrey

Mr. Simone has received a quote on trimming from Daveys and Tamke and he has received a quote from Orr's of Totowa. This year, STC will spend only about half the money it has spent on planting trees in the past, in order to be able to hire professionals to do tree pruning and maintenance at a cost estimated at \$15,000. Mr. Simone is leaning toward the Orr's bid, believes that Tamke is more expensive than we can afford. He believes that we can do a large swath of the 3rd Ward Cedarbrook neighborhood and make an impact there, will move to the Fourth Ward next year.

A. M. Leonard-Tree Guards

Mrs. Spellmeyer has installed 21 of the 100 tree guards. Members suggested streets to cover. Because there will be some budget money still available, we will order more tree guards to store so that they are available.

2015 Roadway Improvement Projects (Philip Wolf-Remington Vernick & Arango Engineers).

Mr. Simone reported that the date for starting the street repair and planting has not been announced. The following streets will be done, and the following species will be planted: Coolidge Street, Frances Lane, Linbarger Avenue, Loretta Terrace, Maxson Place, Shirley Street-Cercis Canadensis "Appalachian Red"; Salem Road-Platanus x acerifolia, London Plane (to be consistent), Adam Circle-Quercus Palustris, Pin Oak (to be consistent).

Greening of Union County 2015-Tree/Site Selection (Louis Barbato Landscaping)

This year, STC is planting 60 trees and spending \$15,000 for tree trimming. Mr. Simone distributed the list of trees and locations electronically, 15 trees will be planted in each ward. Ms. Burgwinkle received an inquiry from the homeowner at 917 Stelle who has sprinklers in the Right of Way and wanted to make sure that the tree is not planted on them. Ms. Burgwinkle will contact Barbato to enforce the description of planting the tree on the property line between 915 and 917. Ms. Massey suggested that the homeowner mark the location of the sprinkler and line on the right of way.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle reported that she contacted Corporation Counsel on the draft planting/violations policy sent to him on 7/22/15. He apologized for taking so much time and promised to look at the memo.

NJDEP Green Communities Grant/Community Forestry Management Plan

Ms. Stefel applied for and received a \$3,000 grant to pay the consultant who will help us with the Community Forestry Management Plan 5 year update. At this meeting the Commissioners spent an hour working on discussing the differences between the 2005 CFMP and the 2011 CFMP and topics that should be included in the 2016 update. The consultant will be invited to the December meeting. Ms. Burgwinkle will email the PDF of the 2005 CFMP to the other Commissioners for their review.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Next meeting is November 11, 2015 at 7:30 pm, however, STC will start at 7:00 with the consultant.