

**City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of April 22, 2015
Planning Conference Room, City Hall
515 Watching Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060**

1. Roll Call and Call to Order: Chair Peter Simone called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Present were Mr. Simone, Mary Burgwinkle, Jan Massey, Barbara Spellmeyer and Lynne Wallace. Oscar Riba attended for the last 15 minutes of the meeting and David Frost was not present. Also present: April Stefel (Shade Tree Commission Liaison, Planning Division) and John Louise, Superintendent of DPW.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting were approved by the Commissioners with one editing change.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

Shade Tree Commission CORE

Ms. Wallace attended Core Training in Rivervale, New Jersey. This Core training was offered by a vendor other than New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, and the vendor is not an approved vendor in Plainfield at this juncture, so Planning could not process a payment, as the vendor did not want to provide the information necessary. Ms. Wallace offered to pay with a check when she got to training, but the vendor was not accepting any payment at the site. It is an advantage to have Core offered other than at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Conference. The city will follow up on paying for the training.

NJ Shade Tree Federation/NJ Department of Agriculture/EAB Traps

NJ Shade Tree Federation reached out to STCs in the state for help in placing Emerald Ash Borer traps around the state. Ms. Spellmeyer agreed to be Plainfield's representative for this project. She contacted the Federation and was asked to find Ash trees on private or public property to place the traps. The Federation did not have a prepared answer for what the city will need to do if it finds EAB in traps on private property, so STC will try to identify Ash Trees on City property for the traps.

Arbor Day Celebration

Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 24, 2015 at 11:00 am at Drake House Museum. Ms. Burgwinkle brought the draft Arbor Day Program for Commissioners to read for comments and changes. The fund that STC received from PSEG is being used to purchase new shrubs for foundation plantings and new groundcover. Three new trees will be planted on the grounds, and a large visible stump will be removed. Mr. Simone brought the new and extensive plan for the Drake House Garden, and the plantings will follow the plan and will be historically relevant to the periods represented by the Drake House. The plan was completed by professional landscape designer Beth P. Riley of The Potted Garden in Madison. Ms. Riley did the plan on a pro bono basis and will be acknowledged in our Arbor Day program for this generosity. Mr. Simone attended a meeting of the Historical Society of Plainfield Board of Directors to explain the changes that will be made at the house grounds. He has also cleared the hillside near Geraud Avenue of many volunteer and other plants and cut back trees and shrubs that will stay at the property. He asked for helpers to go to Drake House at 9 am on Thursday, April 23rd to plant the shrubs and ground cover and to instruct Public Works on the planting of the trees, mulching and mowing of the property. Ms. Spellmeyer and Ms. Burgwinkle volunteered. Ms.

Massey, Ms. Burgwinkle and Mr. Simone will attend the Arbor Day Celebration. Students from King's Daughters Day School and The Barack Obama Green Charter High School and the ROTC Color Guard from Plainfield High School will also attend. A representative of PSEG will attend and will be acknowledged. John Louise confirmed that planting would take place on Thursday and that children from King's Daughters Day School (between 50 and 100) will attend. Liz D'Aversa from the Historical Society Board will bring snacks. Molly Banta of the HSP Board will open the Drake House that morning, and Nancy Piwowar will attend for at least part of the program. Bill Nierstedt will present the Tree City USA award, Mr. Simone will comment on the 2015 Specimen tree (a very large Magnolia Acuminata in Ms. Spellmeyer's back yard at 1322 Martine). Mayor Mapp will attend if possible and will send Deputy City Administrator for Economic Development, Carlos Sanchez if he cannot attend.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Next meeting is May 27, 2015 at 7:30 pm.