

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of July 22, 2015 at 7:30 pm
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 7:40. Present were Mr. Simone, Mary Burgwinkle and Jan Massey. Oscar Riba, Barbara Spellmeyer, Lynne Wallace and David Frost were not present.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners in attendance, there was no quorum.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Community Forestry Management Plan (CSIP Grant)

Ms. Stefel was not present at the meeting and the discussion was deferred to next meeting.

Public Works/ Tree/Stump Grinding/Stake Removal

DPW is doing this work and making progress this season.

Tree Maintenance/Davey / Tamke / Caffrey

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 in the fall. Mr. Simone has received some quotes and is waiting for a quote from Tamke.

2015 Roadway Improvement Projects

Mr. Simone advised that Roadway projects will be done E. Second Street from Church to Leland. London Planes and Plums were recommended, however, Plums have a short life and are not durable. London Planes are a good choice because they have a loose branch structure and can be trimmed despite that they are big trees. Jean Court area will also be done, Mr. Simone is recommending zelkovas, willow oaks, redbuds and some hornbeams as those are the trees that were planted in that vicinity with the last roadwork in the area. Also, the hornbeams that were planted on Leland and Watson after the roadwork there have largely failed and need to be removed. Remington Vernick, the engineering firm on that project, is aware of this and Mr. Simone has requested that the trees be removed and replaced with Amur Maples.

Greening of Union County 2015-Tree Selection, Site Selection

STC expects to use between \$10,000 and \$11,000 of the budget for trees this year. This will mean planting of about 60 trees as compared to 124 last year. Mr. Simone reminded everyone that the Ward Assignments are as follows: Barbara Spellmeyer and Oscar Riba-First Ward, Peter Simone-Second Ward, Jan Massey/Lynne Wallace-Third Ward, Mary Burgwinkle-Fourth Ward. Ms. Burgwinkle reported that she had charted 2/3 of Ward 4, would finish by October. She handed in a list of 103 maintenance issues and 66 planting suggestions in that ward. She also walked the 900 block of Stelle and made a list of trees and places to plant in preparation for walking with a citizen who asked for planting there. Other ward lists are still being compiled.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle passed in a draft that she is planning to submit to corporation counsel for review. Mr. Simone discussed the need to formulate a policy on tree removal, as we are receiving requests from citizens who want healthy trees removed, as well as resistance in some neighborhoods to planting trees, wants to recommend small ornamental trees.

NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference

Mr. Simone reminded us not to forget about it.

New Business

City Council has requested information from City Council about where trees are being planted. Mr. Simone will attend a meeting and explain.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Next meeting is August 26, 2015 at 7:30 pm.