

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of October 28, 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 7:34. Present were Mr. Simone, Mary Burgwinkle, Jan Massey and Barbara Spellmeyer. April Stefel, Planning Division Liaison, was also present.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August and September meetings were reviewed by the Commissioners in attendance and approved.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Meeting Schedule: STC November meeting shall be moved from 11/25/2015 to 11/11/2015, meeting will be held at Jan Massey's home, 1410 Evergreen Avenue as City Hall is closed on 11/11. The original meeting date was the evening before Thanksgiving which was not convenient for a number of commissioners. Notice will be posted on City Hall and the meeting date will be re-noticed. 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 Public Works has worked hard on tree trimming and removal this summer. He has been in the 4th ward on Shade Tree matters recently and noticed many stakes that need to be removed from trees. He requested that Ms. Burgwinkle email a 3 page spreadsheet that she made on maintenance issues in the 4th ward, which includes stakes, to John Louise, and Barbara Spellmeyer.

Tree Maintenance/Davey / Tamke / Caffrey

Mr. Simone has received a quote on trimming from Daveys, and he is getting a quote from Orr's of Totowa. He has not heard from Tamke and asked Ms. Burgwinkle to contact Dirk Boatman from Tamke to get a quote. 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 noted that many trees on Randolph and on 2nd need to be elevated, among other areas.

A. M. Leonard-Tree Guards

The tree guards have been delivered to City Hall and are in the Planning Division. Mr. Simone asked Mrs. Spellmeyer to coordinate installation, she will take the tree guards home. The new trees planted this year will be staked, so the tree guards will be used for young trees that need protection.

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

Mr. Simone reported that he and Ms. Stefel went out into the field with the plans for the streets listed below and marked them where trees should be removed and planted with color coding. Ms. Burgwinkle and Ms. Massey also went out and did several streets. He remarked that the plans were likely done using Google maps because trees were missed. 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.

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 collected recommendations for tree planting from the Commissioners who had been assigned to each ward.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle reported that she has not heard back from Corporation Counsel on the draft planting/violations policy sent to him on 7/22/15. She will follow up with him on the status of his review.

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. We will work on the update at the November and December meetings. Each Commissioner should read the report and plan comments. Each Commissioner should keep their time, as we need to do a match of \$1500. in kind as a condition to the Grant. The time that Mr. Simone and Ms. Stefel spent at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Conference can count toward the in kind match.

Plainfield Streetscape Design Manual updated 9/2015

Ms. Stefel brought the manual to the meeting, asked for comments.

NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference

Mr. Simone attended the conference on the Friday and Ms. Stefel attended on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Simone checked in on Itree training to see if it was actual live online training and found that it was not, so no progress on help in using it to do inventory. He also remarked that Emerald Ash Borer has been found around the Princeton, Skillman area. Mrs. Spellmeyer put a trap out as requested and sent trap samples back. She did not place it near the historic Ash trees in the cemetery so that more bugs would not be drawn to the trees. Mr. Simone remarked that the lectures on EAB were long and boring. Apparently trees can be treated but it is expensive and must be done every year, so decision would need to be made on feasibility. There are some ash trees as street trees, for instance on Netherwood Ave. from Front to the Green Brook, but not a lot of them.

New Business

Ms. Stefel met with the Arborist at the site of the proposed Gateway Project. If the project proceeds, some dead trees will be removed and some other trees will need to be removed. The mulch would be removed hydraulically in the park, the pin oak would be trimmed, and the azaleas will be moved, among other actions there.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting is November 11, 2015 at 7:30 pm.