

**City of Plainfield**  
**Shade Tree Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting of May 25, 2016 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 7:35 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Jan Massey, Mary Burgwinkle, Barbara Spellmeyer and Oscar Riba. Lynne Wallace was not present. April Stefel, Liaison to Shade Tree Commission from Planning Division also attended. Jim Spear, 609 Belvidere Ave, also attended the meeting briefly to ask a question about planting on BOE property, which is not in the jurisdiction of STC.

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

**3. Approval of Minutes:** The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the April 27, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved.

**4. Shade Tree Commission Items:**

Arbor Day 2016-City Hall

The Arbor Day ceremony was held at City Hall on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Plantings were done to enhance the veteran's memorial on City Hall grounds and to replace trees lost to age and weather. Specifically, 8 Serviceberry (Amelanchier Can. Autumn Brilliance) were planted along the edge of the estate fencing on the border of the parking lot facing E. 5th Street, along with 2 Spruce trees (Picea Orientalis). In addition, 6 Kousa Dogwood trees (Cornus Kousa) were planted on the left lawn of City Hall bordering the estate fencing edging the parking lot, and the plantings around the veterans memorial were freshened. The large American Holly tree at 917 Stelle Avenue was chosen as Specimen Tree. Mayor Mapp addressed the attendees, as well as Bill Nierstedt, Mary Burgwinkle and Jan Massey. Also in attendance were John Louise and members of Public Works staff, students and staff from Barack Obama Green High School, students staff from Step One Academy Child Care, the Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard from Plainfield High School and members from American Legion Post 219. A description of the ceremony along with photographs and news coverage were forwarded to our CFMP consultant for inclusion in the CFMP revision.

CSIP Grant

Ms. Stefel filed the CSIP grant on April 12. It is 5 pages and has lots of back up about our proposed planting project in Ward 4. It could be up to 6 months before we know if the grant will be awarded.

Community Forestry Management Plan

Shari Spero, STC's consultant for drafting the five year update of the CFMP has been working on other projects and has not completed a draft of the CFMP. She said that she contemplated having it completed by the end of June.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)/Tree Removal

Mr. Simone asked about the status of these projects. Ms. Burgwinkle reported that the notice about treatment of trees in the public rights of way was approved by Corporation Counsel. The work on amending and rationalizing our STC and Tree Ordinances will be a 2017 project for her.

#### 2016 Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects-Doug Johnson of Remington Vernick.

Mr. Simone reported that E. 2nd St. from Leland to Terrill is being improved, 17 trees have been planted consisting of Little Leaf Lindens and Amur Maples. Also, the 2015 project involving improvement of Coolidge, Frances, Linbarger, Loretta, Maxson, Salem and Shirley is underway, 206 trees will be planted with Cercis Canadensis, "Appalachian Red" on the above streets. On Adam Circle, Quercus palustris, "Pin Oak" will be planted to maintain the look of the neighborhood.

#### STC Applications

Mr. Simone reported that there are many requests for trees from citizens. He will send the list around. We will make every effort to honor the requests of citizens, with a goal of one tree per request. He noted a request that he has received for a street in the fourth ward that has very narrow, sloping tree lawns. He suggested that it may be possible to plant single trunk service berry trees in locations such as that. Also, given the pruning of trees under wires by PSEG, if we are planting under wires, we should try to plant only small trees such as Amur Maple, Hedge Maple, Red Bud, and Washington Hawthorne. He also suggested that we may need to consider a policy concerning planting depending upon the size of the tree lawn.

#### Greening of Union County 2016-Tree/Site selection

Mr. Simone requested that Commissioners take maps of their assigned wards and mark 30 tree sites in Blue on the map, along with another 10 marked in Red on the map. He noted that clustered locations are best. The maps are due by the end of June. He also noted that if the CSIP grant is awarded, we will not plant additional trees in Ward 4 due to the 96 planting sites being requested there.

#### Tree Guards

STC is down to the last 20 tree guards, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Spellmeyer. An new order for more will be placed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next meeting is June 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm.