

**City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of April 27, 2016 7:30 pm
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Ave., Second Floor Conference Room
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060**

Minutes of Meeting of April 27, 2016

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 and John Louise, Public Works Director, also attended.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the March 23, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved with a number of edits suggested at the meeting.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

Mr. Simone began the meeting by suggesting that it be largely devoted to discussion of the Arbor Day Celebration to be held on Friday, April 29, 2016 at City Hall. There was a short discussion about whether to plant any trees at all under wires that will continue. Discussion of other STC business will be deferred to the May 2016 meeting.

Arbor Day

Arbor Day ceremony will be held at City Hall on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Plantings will be 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) will be 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. STC replaced one shrub Drake House Museum which was the site of the 2015 Arbor Day Celebration, however, time did not permit completing that planting in 2016. Ms. Burgwinkle had nominated the large American Holly tree at 917 Stelle Avenue near the border of 925 Stelle Avenue for Specimen Tree to be honored on Arbor Day. She brought a photograph to show Commissioners. Commissioners continued to review a draft of the program for the event, and agreed on changes. John Louise contacted Barack Obama Green High School and Step One Academy Child Care. He also lined up the Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard from Plainfield High School. Ms. Burgwinkle contacted Mayor Mapp and American Legion Post 219 to invite veterans to attend. Mr. Simone announced that he had a work related meeting in NYC that day and regrettably could not attend. Ms. Burgwinkle will act as MC at the event, and another commissioner will cover Mr. Simone's discussion of the specimen tree. John Louise will bring mulch, shovels and small pails and shovels for use by the small children and high school students.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. Next meeting is May 25, 2016 at 7:30 pm.