

City of Plainfield
Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting of September 28, 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 7:30 p.m. Present were Peter Simone, Jan Massey, Mary Burgwinkle, Barbara Spellmeyer, Kelley Boreo (sworn in on 9/22). Lynne Wallace was not present. April Stefel, Liaison to Shade Tree Commission from Planning Division also attended. Oscar Riba attended at 7:40.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the August 24, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting and they were approved.

4. Shade Tree Commission Items:

STC Application by Kelley J. Boero

Kelley Boero was sworn in as a new Commissioner on 9/22 and attended her first official meeting.

NEW Plainfield Roadway Improvement Applications

Cambridge and Gresham Avenues

Plainfield had extra road improvement money after doing Brisbane Estates, and decided to devote the money to Cambridge and Gresham. The contract is tight, with very little room for change orders. At least one resident of Cambridge has complained about the need to remove a large red oak being taken down to facilitate the road work which includes elevating the road and installing better storm drainage. STC will talk to the owner.

2016 Plainfield Roadway Improvement Projects (Philip Wolf –Remington Vernick & Arango Engineers)

Mr. Simone advised that the Roadway Improvement projects are proceeding and that 161 trees will be replanted in the following neighborhoods with the following species:

Coolidge Street / Frances Lane / Linbarger Avenue / Loretta Terrace / Maxson Place / Salem Road / Shirley Street - Cercis Canadensis "Appalachian Red"

Adam Circle - Quercus palustris, Pin Oak

Salem Road - Platanus x acerfolia London Planetree

East 2nd Street (Leland to Terrill) – Little Leaf Linden and Amur Maples

Citizens are generally being cooperative and help will be sought from City Council if we need it to talk to them. Mr. Simone has advised residents who are reporting in late that they do not want trees that the time to comment has expired, they will get trees.

NJDEP CSIP Grant: \$27,900 was awarded (\$25,000 was requested). Ms. Stefel reported that trees from L. Barbato (Union County tree contractor) are getting more expensive, so we should not argue with the amount.

Community Forestry Management Plan

Ms. Burgwinkle reported that she sent the final revisions to this report to Commissioners and will advise consultant to submit it, acknowledging that STC may get requests for changes. On 9/9, the State advised that 2016 to 2020 CFMPs (like STC's) needed to be submitted 9/29, not 12/31. Our consultant objected to the time change and is preparing to submit the CFMP. We should anticipate suggested changes.

STC Planting Policy & Public Notification (Public Ordinances)

Ms. Burgwinkle will work on the ordinance revisions and notices when the draft CFMP has been accepted in final with no further work to be done.

Greening of Union County 2016 – Tree Selection/Citizen Requests for Trees

Mr. Simone passed out lists of planting sites and asked Commissioners to confirm that the sites were still appropriate. Citizens who call to request trees will be asked to call back in the Spring.

Public Works - Tree Removal/ Stump Grinding /Stake removal

Mr. Simone told Commissioners that DPW has been very responsive on getting these things done.

STC / Planning Board Site Applications

Mr. Simone brought site plans that call for planting of trees and news of a suggested donation of trees to the meeting for review by the Commission.

1. **St. Mary's Church (W. Sixth St. / W. Fifth St. / Liberty St.)** – Dr. Clemente from Watchung does some work with parishioners at St. Mary's and will donate 50 trees to be planted in that neighborhood. The contractor paving the parking lot will sheet drain in order to help get water to the trees.
2. **Twin City Supermarket (600 Park. Ave. / E. Sixth St.)**-The owner of this property is doing voluntary upgrade to the space with 410 feet of streetscape. Zoning Control ordinance provides that developers who do improvements need to plant at least one tree every 40 feet. It was suggested that (9) Ginkgo Biloba "Autumn Gold" trees be planted. No pears and plums should be planted as they are not durable trees.

3. **Shiloh Baptist Church, 515 W. Fourth St.** - The church has received approval to sell a property and to repave and light their parking lots. They are proposing (12) total Zelkova Serrata 'Village Green' and Acer Rubrum 'October Glory'. Commission agreed with these plantings, however, upon closer examination, some of the trees will be under wires so Hedge Maples will be suggested so that larger trees will not be subjected to PSEG harsh pruning.
4. **Madison Avenue Playground** (W. 4th between Madison and Central) – This site is across the street from the renovated PSEG substation. Two large trees needed to be taken down to facilitate construction of public restrooms.
5. **YMCA** (518 Watchung Avenue)- -Renovations are taking place, but plans still ambiguous.
6. **730 W. Fourth St.** – Site will have 2' planters, Mr. Simone suggested plant material.

Other Business:

Tree City USA Flag- there was discussion about whether the Tree City USA Flag could be flown on the flag pole on Woodland Avenue, coming into the City. Mrs. Burgwinkle agreed to investigate.

Consultation with Schools – Mr. Simone consulted with School Board personnel about accepting and planting trees donated to schools by the water company.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2016.