

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
February 1, 2023
Meeting - 7:30 PM
1st Floor Mayor's Conference Room 110

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called to Order – 7:32 p.m.

In attendance: Alan Walker, Stacey Ehling, Mark Taylor, Bill Brash, on phone Thom Ritchie.
Guests: Josh Gold, Krzysztof Galka

2. Salute to the Flag - done

3. Announcement of Open Public Meeting Act - done

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, (c231, P.L. 1975) this meeting was announced by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers and the Township and filing such notice with the Township Clerk.

4. Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023 – Thom motion to approve as written, Mark Second, unanimous approval.

5. Shade Tree Appeal Hearings

- a. Josh Gold (181 Robertsville Road) – Since last meeting, the Shade Tree Commission visited the site, a new report was issued. Mr. Gold has agreed to save all 12 Oaks that are on the property and originally slated for removal. He also agreed to take steps to identify the trees that will be saved by marking them with a ribbon and painting the ground around the tree to ensure they are not taken down or injured during the removal of the other trees. In addition, he is moving the solar field further away to save more trees.
 - STC explained that the critical root zone needs to be identified and marked to protect those trees (1 foot for every inch of DBH – if 12 inch diameter = 12 foot zone). Use athletic field spray paint to mark the ground. protect the trees. No paint should be sprayed on the trees.
 - STC proposed a motion to approve removal of the trees except for 12 oaks, ribbon will be tied to ensure contractor has a visible sign of what not cut. And, a critical root zone will be made visible for the solar contractor equaling one foot per inch of diameter of the Oak Tree. Mark moved the proposal, Thom second, STC voted unanimously in favor. Motion Approved.
- b. Krzysztof Galka (39 Citation Drive) Removal permit submitted on 10/24/inspected on 11/17 that was denied and sent for review to STC. Mr. Galka stated roots of the Maple tree have damaged the driveway and sprinkler system and front walkway. He has spent a lot of money repairing the sprinklers due to roots growing in pipes, and replaced 1/3 of the driveway and sidewalk to front door replaced due to cracks. He showed photos of the tree, damage to sprinkler. Said he has already planted 18 trees in the yard.
 - STC proposed taking a site visit to look at the tree, which appears healthy in the photographs, next week - Monday morning at 10 a.m. Then will make a decision.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Fall 2023 tree planting for street tree replacements – STC will split up the list and do a visit to the properties to ensure that there is room for the trees requested as replacement street

trees. Suggestion to limit street trees to 2 per residence to allow for more residents to participate in the program.

- b. One more social media push – February will be a final push for people to sign-up for the Fall 2023 planting.
- c. 160 Heritage Report – Removal was granted by DPW and 2 of the trees were in fact street trees, and the permit for those two trees was mistakenly issued. Unfortunately the homeowner had already removed the trees by the time they were inspected by STC. Homeowner did agree to replace the trees and they will be added to our Fall 2023 list.

7. New Business:

- a. Shade Tree Monthly Report – nothing to report.
- b. Financial report of Shade Tree accounts – Need to be made available for March meeting so STC can review budget for 2023 planting and other projects.
- c. Summer Intern Assistance – There was concern noted about a liability issue, but clarified that this person would fall under same rules as seasonal employee. Also clarified that funds would come from the STC budget to support the intern. Need to create a job description and get it to Scott, who will also be able to use the intern who would work for proposed 10 weeks @30 hours per week. Bill will contact Rutgers to see if any interested candidates.
- e. Correspondence – none
- f. Arbor Day WFS – Email was sent to principal waiting for a response. At Durand Park no final word yet on who the tree will be dedicated to, but recommendation included Fred Jahn and planting a tree similar to one of those outside the municipal building since he was instrumental in getting that planting done.

8. Open Public Discussion – none.

9. Good and Welfare – New date for Newark event will be shared via email.

10. Adjourn: Mark motion to adjourn, Stacey second.8:40 p.m.

Minutes by STC Secretary, Stacey Ehling.