

**FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION (STC)**  
**February 5, 2019 – 7:00pm**  
**Room 110**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00pm by Chairman Thom Ritchie.

**Attendance:** Thom Ritchie, Bill Brash, Greg Hanley, Nancy McNeil, Lester Preston

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Guests:** None attended

**Announcement of Open Public Meetings Act:** In accordance with the Open Public Meetings 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.

**Meeting Minutes:** January minutes were reviewed by the Commission members.

**MOTION 1:** Minutes were approved in a motion made by Lester Preston seconded by Greg Hanley, carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Lester spoke to Tom Yaeger at the Parks and Recreation Department about the STC performing a risk assessment in Michael J. Tighe Park to ID the Ash and prioritize their removals pursuant to their observed condition. The risk assessment would be performed only in trail or high traffic areas no in the wooded areas. The assessment will be coordinated with Mr. Yaeger sometime after leave emergence. The STC will contact Mr. Yaeger to schedule the assessment.

Tom requested the township review their ordinances to ensure CTE is replaced with the new licensing legislation and require "LTE's" as the Township requirement.

Need to acquire the list of trees requested for planting and schedule a tree planting contract that includes the still to be developed "cost share" component.

Discussion began concerning Monroe Township's new ordinance requiring a NJ LTE to assist and/or serve on the Planning and Zoning Boards for tree related questions. This proposal requires additional discussion at subsequent meetings.

Tom Ritchie and the STC have noticed a reduction in the quality of pruning work completed by outside contractors performing services on beautification trees. Although these trees are located on private property their care is covered by Township ordinances and several recently have suffered poor quality pruning work without follow-up effort to prevent the offending contractor from violating the ordinance. Some of these offending contractors when identified are referred to the NJ Board of Tree Experts for enforcement.

Lester understood the concern of the STC and would speak to Code Enforcement about picking up the slack.

The STC discussed the need for DPW representation at the STC Meetings on a quarterly basis. Lester said Pete Valesi would attend the March Meeting to discuss this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Shade Tree Monthly report was reviewed by Commission members. The Community Forestry Management Plan annual accomplishment report and Tree City application were both completed and submitted.

Arbor Day is scheduled for April 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> this year. Neither Bill nor Greg will be available for this year's Arbor Day. Both will be out of town.

**GOOD and WELFARE:**

Thom gave the Commission a summary of the NJ Nursery and Landscape Association Annual Conference, the NJ Society of LTE Dinner at the American Hotel and provided information to the Commission members on upcoming CORE Training at the Holly House on the campus of Rutgers in New Brunswick (March 23, 2019) and the NJ Tree Conference scheduled for Atlantic City March 5, 6, 2019.

**MOTION 2:** A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Brash, seconded by Nancy McNeill and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ritchie at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Brash  
Vice Chairman