

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

February 1, 2017 Meeting - 7:00 PM
1st Floor Mayor's Conference Room 110

MINUTES

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 7:07 pm Thom Ritchie
2. **Present-** Tara McQuade, Nancy MacNeill, Lester Preston, Jeanne Paterson, Thom Ritchie, Greg Hanley
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Announcement of Open Public Meeting Act**

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.

5. **Meeting Minutes:** January 11, 2017 were reviewed and discussed. Nancy made a motion to approve, Jeanne seconded and they were approved.

6. **Appointments** Greg Hanley was sworn in for his term as Shade Tree Commissioner for a 5 year term.

7. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. iTree Inventory- Meeting with Dr. Jason Grabowski is scheduled for 2/2 at Rutgers with Bill and Thom. Lester and Scott Higgins discussed the iTree project, specifically the payment as either seasonal or is this a grant/PO situation? Use of Shade Tree Mitigation account would be ideal to ensure the payment to the Grad students. STC discussed how the transportation and safety measures would be arranged.

- b. Bill and Thom visited the Cracker Barrel (Cincinnati Hall) site with Cookie and Joseph Longo to examine trees and provide guidance for the upcoming site cleanup. Some young trees may be preserved, but many species are invasive and best removed. It would be best to leave some vegetation to conserve soil during the Cracker Barrel project.

- i. Plans for the project were reviewed and discussed. Jeanne and Tara discussed the use of raingardens for retention basins as a way to cut labor. Lester mentioned that attending a Planning Board meeting could be helpful.

8. **New Business:**

- a. Betsy Ross Drive- Maria Rodriguez- Karen discussed the site visit results with Ms. Rodriguez to let her know the STC suggestions that could help with the issue. No further actions were taken and the homeowner has not yet responded.

- b. Shade Tree Monthly report was reviewed and discussed.

9. **Good and Welfare-**

- a. Jeanne mentioned the Shade Tree Federation newsletter in reference to the state award for green communities that recognized the effort to have scan able QR codes to help educate community about the species and details. Other commendations for Branchwood Park in Newark involved refurbishment of the park. Notably, the park was designed by Frederick Olmsted.

- b. NJ Plants- will Feb. 28th to March 1st at the Expo Center

- c. Monmouth County Orchid Society Show is this weekend at Deerborne Farms on Rt 35 in Holmdel/Middletown. Free to visit!

10. **Meeting Adjourned** 8:07 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Tara McQuade