

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
February 7, 2018 Meeting - 7:00 PM
1st Floor Mayor's Conference Room 110

Meeting Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 7:04 pm Thom Ritchie
2. **Present-** Nancy Mac Neill, Thom Ritchie, Greg Hanley, Bill Brash, Lester Preston, Tara McQuade
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. **Swearing in:** Please note that Nancy Mac Neill was sworn in prior to the meeting . Thom was nominated Chair and the motion was seconded. Bill was nominated vice chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
6. **Meeting Minutes:** December 6, 2017 were reviewed and discussed. Bill made a motion to approve Nancy seconded and they were approved.

7. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. iTree Inventory- the inventory was discussed and reviewed. Mike Martini did a terrific job, the STC is truly impressed! There are over 20,000 street trees that were inventoried in Freehold Township.
 - i. There are 692 Ash trees that were identified by the inventory. The STC discussed how we can use the data to inform homeowners about possible risks or treatments to cope with EAB (Emerald Ash Borer). A Cost Benefit Analysis should be used to weigh the cost of treating versus removal.
 - ii. Other possible pathogens were discussed such as Oak wilt, Spotted Lanternfly, and BLS. The inventory will help us troubleshoot for areas of concern once we learn of their arrival.
- b. The Ash trees are the number one concern and the trees rated to be in poor condition (rated 3 on the inventory) are next. The large number of Norway maples that are rated poor is an issue that we wish as a commission to plan ahead for removal and replacement.
- c. CSIP grant- application will be out in March and Bill will handle it.
- d. GPS tree inventory for parks- inventory for the parks is great, but the use of GPS may not be necessary.
- e. Spring 2018 tree planting for street tree replacements- we would like to honor requests first and then continue along Stillwells and target some areas where pockets of trees could be installed.
- f. **Preferred list of conifers for planting in Freehold Township-** a few more were added such as Taxodium, Metasequoia, Hemlock, Atlantic White Cedar and American Holly. Bill will add the changes and share the document with Karen.

8. **New Business:**

- a. **Shade Tree Monthly Report-** reviewed and discussed
 - i. Training of Buildings and Grounds employees of Board of Education of Freehold was discussed to improve the care and maintenance of planted trees on school grounds.
 - ii. The use of licensed insured contractors would be advantageous and it would be great to sit with the Superintendent to inform him of our concerns.
- b. **CFMP Accomplishment Report (submitted)**
- c. **Arbor Day April 27 and 28, 2018-** locations discussed, perhaps Catina or Eisenhower. We will decide next month.
- d. **Detention Basin Projects-** discussed and will be put in next month's agenda or a subcommittee meeting.

9. **Good and Welfare-** ISA tree meeting in AC in early March.

10. **Meeting Adjourned** 8:16 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Tara McQuade