

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

MINUTES

- 1. Meeting Called to Order** – 7:32 p.m. Bill Brash, Kurt Davis, Mark Taylor, David Novak, Alan Walker, Thom Ritchie (via phone), Stacey Ehling
- 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 February 1, 2023** – Mark first, Thom second, approved as written.
- 5. Greg Hanley report on site plan reviews and Tree Removal Permits/Applications**
 - 1 Applewood Drive (off Gully Road) – Ground Mounted Solar Array. Responded to comments. Tree removal permit wasn't included, had calipers but no other information. Need to submit DBH in inches as per ordinance. Revised plans still didn't show the information and was rejected. No genus, size, species, were included in the removal application.
 - Wawa Site (275 Monmouth County Road/Siloam Rd.) 4,700 sq.ft. site on 26 acres. Tree removal at rear of the site, there is an area for trees to be saved, others that will be removed. TRP but no information. Genus, species and size of trees need to be included. Protective snow fencing need to protect from construction and soil compaction. Discussed need to change the type of trees proposed by the septic field, and modify the plantings for size and type for around the parking lot area. Greg noted there will be inspections pre & post planting. STC discussed adding some different type of bi-color Oaks instead of two Red Oaks, and suggested two different types of Oaks - Swamp White Oaks and Burr Oaks. Suggested swapping out Helleri for a more deer resistant lower evergreen shrub like Junipers.
Note: Bill disclosed he worked with one of the landowners 20 years ago.
- 6. Shade Tree Appeal Hearings**
 - a.** Follow-up on Krzysztof Galka 39 Citation Drive. Mark and Bill inspected the tree and the site, found that the tree was not causing impacts to foundation, but it had girdling roots and was not healthy. Homeowner agreed to take it out and replace with a small flowering tree. The White Pine was not in good shape and within falling distance of 2 front doors. Approved taking out the trees.
 - b.** Follow-up on Robertsville Road possible improper tree removal. Mark and Bill went through the Whittier Oaks neighborhood and checked out the neighbor who took down some trees. Didn't see evidence of improper tree removal or stumps but did see a new fence and some large evergreens and shrubs had been planted. No further action.

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Remove dead and at-risk trees in Right- of -way and prune trees along Stillwells Corner Road. No action taken at this time due to potential hiring of intern this summer.
- b. Hiring a Rutgers Student as seasonal worker for pruning Street trees and DPMA Bill drafted a job description for Arborist Intern. Spoke to Dr. Grabowski at RU to develop list of names and he will post a notice.
- c. DPMA irrigation repairs (completed). Tree replacements, Maintenance and improvements still in progress.
- d. Updates to Shade Tree Website – This will be discussed during the May meeting. STC Removal Permits Update to make easier to use. This needs to be a priority, received complaint from a resident that the form was hard to find and understand, particularly for seniors. STC will review forms from other towns, need to speak with the Township IT administrators to find a way to make this a fillable PDF, or make it an online submission form. Also need to see if there is way to upload photos.

8. New Business:

- a. Tree Preservation Ordinance and proper method for marking trees – STC has seen some properties with large white painted numbers and letters on trees marked for removal with no corresponding removal permits. Need to educate and reiterate that applying anything to a tree can be harmful, even if eventually come down should use ribbons NOT PAINT. After permit is issued trees can be marked with a “dot” not a giant X. At pre-construction meetings need to reinforce that it is not acceptable to paint on trees. STC will create a guidance document on this topic along with the ordinance numbers.
- b. Arbor Day, West Freehold School 4/28/23 & DPMA 4/29/23.
 - i. WFS - Will need 75 seedlings Bill will check with the State nursery. Pack 155 can do the flag ceremony and local Girl Scouts can assist. Meeting in March to review the site, date will be provided.
 - ii. Tree for Durand Park – Twp. Committee wants to honor Fred Jahn, want to get a tree he would like, and needs to decide wording for the plaque which STC will pay for. Alan will follow-up on this with the Twp. Committee.
- c. Shade Tree Monthly Report - no comments.
- d. Correspondence – none.
- e. Account Review – Request Durand Park figures for April Meeting December 31, 2022 balances.
 - Shade Tree Donation Fund: \$ 65,078.98, \$ 2,664 in revenue, \$ 0 expenditures
 - Shade Tree Escrow Fund: \$ 402,919.26, \$100,210 in revenue, \$ 0 expenditures
- f. Fall tree planting – Need to review all locations for space and number of trees. Went over list of those sites already visited, still a few need to be checked out. Need list from Greg of the trees that need to be replaced that died from weather conditions.

9. Open Public Discussion - none

10. Good and Welfare – NJ Shade Tree Conference, great sessions, will share the information with the STC when over.

11. Adjourn - 8:36 p.m.