

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
April 7, 2016**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission was held in Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Cranbury, on April 7, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Kathy Easton, chair of the Shade Tree Commission, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and Wendy Borg acted as the Recording Secretary of the meeting.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided on December 1, 2015, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Kathy Easton, Bonnie Larson, Norma Swale, and Christine Quinn were present. Lee Nissen reported her absence by email.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 4, 2016 and March 15, 2016 meetings were tabled because of lack of quorum to approve.

OLD BUSINESS

Arbor Day – Lt. Frank Dillane will be an honored guest, as he is retiring from the township police force after 30 years of service. The seedlings have been ordered. The Cranbury School students are preparing their songs, poems and illustrations. The tree needs to be purchased.

Community Forestry Plan –

Volunteer Work Hours – Ms. Quinn worked 4.5 hours; Mrs. Larson worked four hours; Ms. Easton worked 9.5 hours; Mrs. Swale worked four hours.

The Environmental Commission is applying for re-certification for Sustainable Jersey and needs a copy of the Shade Tree 2015 Year-End report; short narrative of 2015 accomplishments; canopy goal. Ms. Easton made a motion to reaffirm working towards a 30% canopy goal; seconded by Ms. Larson. All were in favor.

CSIP grant – The Commission decided to not go forward with the application because they felt they could not accomplish the application process in the timeline that was required. Also, money was not available in the budget to complete the application with professional services. The Commission would like to discuss the next grant round with Ms. Marabello in the fall of 2016 for a tree inventory.

Beautification Committee new developments – No discussion.

Amendment to Ordinance – An amendment is not needed because the Commission has full and exclusive control over shade trees on any public highway in town.

Empty Hole Survey – Ms. Larson and Ms. Nissen reviewed the survey and walked Main Street and identified more than 35 holes. Idea is to plan plantings for downtown and then work north and south. Species need to be determined and communication with Jerry Thorne. The tree planting plan will be created at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree inquiries – A couple of residents contacted the township for help with determining if trees they would like removed are either on their property or in the township right-of-way. The DPW is assisting.

Summer newsletter – Spring newsletter information has been submitted. Will consult with Ms. Nissen on summer at June meeting.

Township Budget Meeting - Ms. Larson and Ms. Easton attended the township budget meeting on February 6 in support of the \$5,000 tree planting line item. The Township Committee asked that the Commission share the planting plan for feedback. The Commission was also assured that they would be consulted during the tree planning for the redevelopment of the Hagerty/Cheney property. Also, the Township Committee agreed that the Shade Tree Commission does not need to gather permission from individual homeowners for tree plantings, nor would residents have choice of species.

Tree farm idea – Ms. Larson reported that the grassy area next to the five township parking spaces on the road heading into the Cranbury Brook Preserve could be a good spot and has run the idea by Township Committee liaison Susan Goetz. Ms. Easton noted that grant monies would have to be acquired and the question remains of tree care.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team Conference – Ms. Easton attended this informative event at Duke Farms. She received three CEUs. The NJISST is pushing legislation of limiting the sale of invasives, and is merging with NJ Audubon.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, motion duly made by Bonnie Larson, seconded by Christine Quinn, and carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that I am the duly appointed Secretary of the Cranbury Township Shade Tree Commission, and that this document, consisting of two (2) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on April 7, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this _____ day of _____ 2016.

Wendy W. Borg, Secretary