

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
June 2, 2021 Meeting - 7:30 PM

MINUTES

- 1. Meeting Called to Order** - 7:35 p.m. In attendance: Thom, Stacey, Greg, Bill, Nancy, Alan
- 2. Salute to the Flag**
- 3. Announcement of Open Public Meeting Act** (read)
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 April 7, and May 5, 2021**
 - Minutes April 7 – Ken Pape was missing from minutes, amended to reflect that Pape Helbrim Associates Esquire was in attendance. Minutes were discussed. Motion to approve with addition of the name, Bill 1st, Greg 2nd.
 - Minutes May 5 – Missing Bill Brash who was present – writing in on the minutes. No comments. Motion to approve, Stacey 1st, Bill 2nd. Approved.
- 5. Shade Tree Appeal Hearings**

Gustave Deblasio (guest) Halls Mills Road Project (Formerly Mazur Consulting now Colliers)

Talked about action items:

 1. Plant species to be altered in the palette of planting plan. No objections to making changes. Remove - Colorado Blue Spruce and replace Black Hill Spruce. Black arborvitae and replace with Red Cedar. Due to deer pressure in the area.
 2. Fair appraisal of plant material – used 9th edition of NJ Tree evaluation booklet appraisal calculations and came up with true representation of what was there. None of the trees were outstanding.
 3. Gus Deblasio said: We believe in heritage trees, but the quality is not good and problems encumbered bark, open wounds. Still tree and have value and they provided a fair evaluation to provide adequate compensation (see appraisal document Pg. 23) totaling 40K for the trees that were being removed. Want to maintain a natural buffer but some were too close to parking lot and could be damaged by construction, drainage modifications, etc.

Group Discussion: Injuries on the trees are typical of those on farms, most of the trees are on the perimeter and a few on the roadway but they may be damaged further by the construction. Goal is to see good healthy trees be planted and grow to support environment. Want to make sure the canopy being lost is reflected.

 4. Planting plan had the number of trees that will be planted.
 5. Tree planting plan with species will be revised and sent it back to you with the letter that shows commitment to making the changes.

Gus Deblasio will instruct them to move forward with financial compensation, revise plans to reflect species modifications, make the change and share with the committee (NOTE: This was done). Then put in resolution – must be typed up – once we have agreed number and then have meeting to memorialize the resolution and vote on it. (NOTE: After the meeting this was done on the administrative level and another vote was not required by the Shade Tree Commission)

Bill made a motion – Resolution species changes and financial compensation number based on the report and what we know. Only conditions special to the resolution. Page 23 is the compensation for removal of the trees. \$40,030.00

Greg 2nd. No further discussion.

Motion for compensation for the value of the heritage trees on the site was passed. Has resolution to approve with financial number and changes on the landscape plan. Blue Spruce to Black Hills, Arborvitae to eastern red cedar to reduce the deer feeding.

All in favor – Approved – No objections – No abstentions.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Status of the 2021 tree planting for street tree replacements (residents request list and DPMA replacements), Goal is to plant 58 street trees & DPMA replacements. (11 trees, 10 dedicated with plaques).

Nothing has changed from initial proposal 58 trees. They had a purchasing agent prevailing wage on there – no need to have it so it was revised and will be resent again to the same 3 for the fall. Bids out by end of the month.

- Divided the addresses of those who were on the list to receive trees between the committee members to contact, get permission for and confirm for the fall planting. They agree to water and care for tree.
- A list of tree types have been selected for each property. Trees will be planted near where previous trees had been but offset. This will be FREE to homeowners (not coming out of tax payer money – from Shade Tree Fund) who applied for the replacement trees.
- Utility line marks will be ordered. Call week before – not sure date yet – digging trees weather dependent. Homeowner doesn't need to be present.
- Ask if they have a sprinkler system --- if contractor breaks will be their responsibility to fix. If they have sprinklers ask homeowner to mark/flag system heads – 1 – 2 weeks prior to tree installation.
- Discussed drafting a letter for the tree owners to send out prior to the planting.
- Thanked Bill for his work on this project and Karen for list of trees removed.

- b. Schedule for structural pruning and removal of stakes & ties from trees planted over a year ago. Discussion regarding the hiring of a qualified tree company to do the needed work. Commissioners to assist where possible
 - Trees along Stillwells Corner Rd. and Schanck Rd. – pruning needs to be done – winter is a good time. Estimated 35 trees need to be pruned. Need to scope out the project walk the area in the summer.
 - Can DPW remove dead trees in Twp. Right of way?
 - Need to develop a scope of work for Sept. Meeting to make a proposal to go out to bid.
- c. Status of Township's effort to hire an LTE for Tree Inspections and Planting project management. No change.
- d. Status of revisions to the Tree Removal permit forms and process overhaul (work in progress). Need fillable PDF simple to use and submit.

Discussion: The 43DBH White Oak in packet is one that should have been inspected. Shade Tree should be allowed opportunity to view/inspect a tree before final approval. Perhaps add a second signature box for suspected heritage trees to provide opportunity to work with homeowners to save large trees.

7. New Business:

- a. Shade Tree Monthly Report - Reviewed discussed 43 DBH White Oak.
- b. Mall proposal in packet – Surprised by the amount to contribute for removals, 4" and under not counted. Came to \$30,636 414 x74 each. Would have liked to save more trees but we gave approval. Soil conservation also gave approval.
- b. Correspondence - NONE -

Make a motion to accept the letters of resignation by two members of the Shade Tree Commission: Tom 1st, Stacey 2nd. We will miss them, they did good work. Encourage anyone you know who might be interested in joining the FT Shade Tree Commission to put forth request – letter of interest and submit to Tom Cook.

8. Good and Welfare – No discussion.

9. Open Public Discussion – No public present so no discussion

10. GUEST: Gustave DeBlasio, Colliers Engineering & Design.

Gus.deblasio@colliersengineering.com,

11. Adjourn – motion to adjourn 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Stacey Ehling.