

Freehold Township Shade Tree Commission
Minutes: March 2, 2022

1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:34 p.m.
In attendance: Thom Ritchie, Alan Walker, Stacey Ehling, Greg Hanley, Kurt Davis, Mark Taylor, Dave Novak, Bill Brash.
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 the February 2, 2022. Approval of the minutes motion by Kurt, second by Mark. Approved without changes.
5. Shade Tree Appeal Hearings: Rivera, 25 Patten Street (no one appeared)

On the Agenda: Welcome to new members Mark Taylor and David Novak. Greg will give a presentation on the Willow Brook Solar Project, 56 Willow Brook Road.

Greg shared information about the proposed Solar Project on Willow Brook Road. He explained that there would be removal of some heritage black cherry trees and suggestions would be made to change the type of trees being planted along the fence line to prevent overhang of branches into the neighbor back yards and reduce pruning issues and hazards. Discussed need for irrigation of some sort to water the plants and a plan to deal with vegetation management. Mentioned the need for inspections and who would be appointed to do that.

Discussed the inspection of 160 Kings Mountain. Some of the removal has been done, one tree pruned that had injury and the Norway Maple was severely decayed, we recommended it be removed. This tree was not on the original removal request and is a street tree, the owner will have to apply for removal, and has agreed to allow us to replace with a new healthy tree.

Discussed 152 Wemrock Road, which removed a lot of big trees and didn't see any permit issued for that.

6. Unfinished Business:
 - a) Spring Fall 2022 Tree planting for street tree replacements (Resident request list & Stillwell's Corner Road) DPMA replacements. We have some trees that need to be replaced and should do it in the spring. If we have a tree planting – there may be problem still with the irrigation which still needs to be repaired. Need to make sure tree numbers are not being duplicated in the arboretum when new ones are planted. Two trees were planted, one with a plaque, they are an Allee Elm and Beech Tree.
Will try to do a Fall Planting and will create a Facebook social campaign to get more names on the list to plant 50 trees in the fall of 2022.

- b) Remove any old stakes and ties, prune trees along Stillwells Corner Rd. - Still need manpower to help, but plan to take the stakes out first.
- c) DPMA Irrigation repairs, tree replacements, maintenance and improvements – under review.
- d) Enforcement of Shade Tree Ordinances – no action.
- e) Arbor Day April 29 & 30, 2022 -- Erickson School has agreed to participate. For other trees in the arboretum to be sponsored the cost is \$350 for the plaque and try to get the tree donated. For the schools, we donate the Arbor Day tree and plant it. Making plans to meet with the principal and select a tree for the site. The presentation for the school will likely be on Friday, April 29, just waiting for confirmation. We should see if we can get scouts or a boys or girls soccer team to participate.

7. New Business:

- a) Shade Tree Monthly Report – No comment. Request was made to have the monthly reports be more specific to reflect the specifics of the work being done, such as mulching, pruning, or stump removal.
- b) Financial report of Shade Tree accounts – Still waiting to see the accounts, hopefully will have the information for the next meeting so the commission can review.
- c) Correspondence - none.
- d) Core Training discussed for the two new Shade Tree Commission members. All modules are now online.
- e) iTree – We still can't access this data base. Need to find a way to get access to our inventory which needs to be updated and currently has over 21K trees.

f.) Durand Park - Kurt created a list with recommendations to consider for DPMA. This included: mulching and the type of mulch (double shred) for all tees and beds; cutting down the trunks in the butterfly meadow; tree inventory & ordering deer guards; repair of the irrigation system.

8. Open Public Discussion

9. Good and Welfare

- a) NJAISA Garden State Tree Conference, March 3 & 4, Atlantic City, NJ

10. Adjourn – 9 p.m. Bill motioned, Mark seconded.

11. Resignation of Greg Hanley – Thank you for your service. Retained by the township to review site plans, landscape, trees, drainage, to propose changes or adaptation to stay within ordinance regulations. Resignation as of February 15, 2022. Serving as a commissioner for 24 years. He said, “Has been an honor to serve and learn from you and fellow volunteers on the committee.”