

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
April 6, 2022 Meeting - 7:30 PM
MINUTES

- 1. Meeting Called to Order 7:30 p.m.**
Bill Brash, Kurt Davis, Mark Taylor, Dave Novak, Thom Ritchie, Stacey Ehling.
Guest: Myron Novak.
- 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 March 2, 2022 – Approved Bill first, Mark second.**
- 5. Shade Tree Appeal Hearings - none**
- 6. Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Spring / Fall 2022 tree planting for street tree replacements (residents request list & Stillwells Corner Road) and DPMA replacements. We can use funds to remove those in the public right of way – 3 at least that are dead. Every 3-4 years should do elevational pruning to give tree a good start, but no crews available currently.
 - b. Remove any old stakes and ties, prune trees along Stillwells Corner Road – Thom and Bill will meet 4/7 to do a walkthrough and get addresses of the trees that are dead and need removal.
 - c. DPMA irrigation repairs, Tree replacements, Maintenance and improvements. Need a count of how many are dead in the arboretum. Kurt will do a count on the dead trees and mark them to remove and replace and note if any are dedicated. Not count trees on the outskirts.
 - d. Enforcement of Shade Tree Ordinances – Code enforcement has not had the manpower to assist on a regular basis. This covers beautification trees or heritage trees.
 - e. Arbor Day April 29, & 30, 2022 - Forest Pansy Red Bud tree was chosen for the Marshall W. Errickson Elementary School which was purchased with a discount at A.N.T. Nursery. The Pantano Nursery donated the Dawn Redwood tree for the Durand Park arboretum planting. School ceremony will be at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29. Durand Park at 10 a.m. April 30 – township gives the plaque and Pantano donated the tree. Township Committee will do the Arbor Day Recognition at the meeting 8 p.m. April 26, 2022.
- 7. New Business:**
 - a. Shade Tree Monthly Report – reviewed no comments. Just update on Love Lane property which paid the fine \$2,664 to remove the additional pine trees on the property.

- b. Financial report of Shade Tree accounts 2021, income, expenses and balance. Still waiting to receive the documents.
- c. Correspondence – none.
- d. Contact Karen to let her know the new members didn't receive the financial disclosure form.

8. Open Public Discussion

DPMA Maintenance discussion –Determine what items need to be a priority. If it can't be done by public works we can explore hiring a contractor to handle with Durand Park funds. Road/Earth and Dam issue are engineering issues. Make a list of the top three items that should be addressed and vote and move forward to the appropriate channels. Issues surrounding regular maintenance and safety first are the first priority.

9. Good and Welfare –

Discussed the information presented at core training and that by taking the training it protects volunteer members of the Shade Tree Commission from legal action. Core training CEU's go toward the commission tally which is needed meet the requirement.

Sign the sheet for State Community Forestry Credits any time you do a program after completing the CORE program. Fill out the forms to get the credits. If you teach you can also get credits.

Shade Tree Act – History in the 1940s after Dutch Elm disease outbreak. Enhance community and improve the environment.

Guest Myron Novak commented: "It is beautiful around here you do a wonderful job."

10. Adjourn – 8:45 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify Thom Ritchie at 732-431-7691 or Karen Ketcham at (732) 294-2161