

Closter Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2020

8:00 p.m.

Held remotely via Zoom

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Present: Nils Abate, Chair; Todd Bradbury; Scott Devlin, Council Liaison; George Futterknecht; Miriam Lockhart, Secretary; George Paschalis; Nancy Pergament, Environmental Commission Chair/STC Liaison; Tsun Tam

Absent: Anthony Lupardi, Sr.

III. Approval of Minutes.

The November 9, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comment - none

V. Old Business

- a) 40 Pine St/145 Demarest. Homeowner is appealing fines to Governing Body. Councilman Devlin reported the Governing Body is forming a subcommittee to address appeals regarding tree fines.
- b) 63 Bergenline Avenue - Homeowner was directed that tree was not planted correctly, and given directions on proper planting. Information given to the Building Department.
- c) Watering newly planted shade trees in 2020 - funds to be included in 2021 budget.
- d) Do Not Prune letter to homeowners. Discussion on building town-wide awareness and buy-in on the benefits of shade trees in Closter, including designing a hang tag for town shade trees.
- e) 2020-1 tree removals. Work to be completed mid-January.
- f) Fall tree planting - in progress. Photos taken of 2 winners of Arbor Day Poster Contest, and their families, with shade trees planted in their honor.
- g) Pruning - status will be determined.

VI. New Business

- a) 2021 budget.
What funds are needed to insure removal of all ash trees (danger from emerald ash borer) on borough tree removal list?
Motion made by Ms. Pergament to increase funds for tree maintenance by \$5,000.
Seconded by Councilman Devlin.

b) Intersection visibility Chestnut & CDR - outside of Shade Tree Committee jurisdiction. Homeowner should follow up with Borough.

c) Ash trees -an update on removals is needed.

d) 8 Grove Street - petitioning the Commission to remove a shade tree.

VII. Liaison Reports

a. Governing body. Councilman Devlin informed that a subcommittee will be formed to address homeowners who are appealing fines for illegally removing trees.

b. Environmental Commission. Ms. Pergament informed that:

- There is an ash tree in Farrell Woods that has fallen and must be removed.
- The Environmental Commission opposes the proposal to build a BMX course in Schauble Park.

VIII. Plans from Building Department. Review and comment

- a. 17 Wellington
- b. 126 CDR
- c. 766 CDR
- d. 193 Crescent St
- e. Demarest Ave.
- f. 283 Homans
- g. 12 Westervelt

VII. Adjournment: 9:26 p.m.

