



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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Minutes of Regular Meeting
Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission (STC)
Saturday, November 14, 2009
Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Nancy Schmaltz, Chairperson
Ellen Preissler (8:41 a.m.)
Steve Skop (8:49 a.m.)
Miles Svikhart
Kathy Wilson
Don Burden (Council Liaison)

Absent

Dianne Crilly
Gordon Ogden
Hermann Allen, Environmental Commission

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Chairman Schmaltz began the meeting at 8:38 a.m. by reading the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Presiding Officer's statement in compliance with the P. L. 1975 c. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act. Roll call was taken by secretary, Susan Milnes.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER'S MEETING

Mrs. Wilson made a motion to approve Septembers' meeting minutes. Mrs. Schmaltz seconded motion.

II. CORRESPONDANCE

- Mrs. Schmaltz received re-organization letter from Boro renewing her membership to STC for another five years.
- Mrs. Schmaltz shared the following magazines and articles: Monmouth County Park System's Green Heritage Newsletter, Tree City USA, Community Forestry Program, N.Y. Times article on the Anne Frank tree (10/16/09) and a prototype resolution registering our community's tree care expert. Mr. Burden shared articles on a tree ordinance in Jackson as well as a tree preservation ordinance in Flemington.

III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Tree City USA** – Application is due for annual award. Again, STC will strive for "Growth Award." Information displays will qualify for points toward "Growth Award."
- B. Shade Tree Federation Conference** – Mrs. Schmaltz attended conference on 10/23/09. She was able to attend a variety of sessions all of which offered valuable information. Mrs. Schmaltz spoke with STC members from neighboring communities

regarding Community Forestry Plan. Fair Haven is well underway with their plan and is using Gary LoVallo, certified tree expert. They highly recommend Mr. LoVallo.

Action: Mrs. Schmaltz will call Mr. LoVallo to discuss Shrewsbury's forestry plan.

C. Tree Issues

1. Nelson Tree Service submitted paperwork requesting permission to trim trees throughout boro.

2. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (8:53 a.m.)**

Mr. Steve Drucker (61 Patterson Ave.) is concerned about a locust tree on his property in boro right-of-way. The 80' tree has a 30 degree lean toward street. Tree is top heavy and has lost limbs in past causing wires to Mr. Drucker's house to snap. Mrs. Schmaltz relayed what has been told to her; anything above the power lines is JCP&L's responsibility. Unfortunately, JCP&L feels tree is not a threat to their lines since tree is across street from main power lines.

Action: Mrs. Schmaltz will write a letter to DPW and JCP&L requesting further analysis. Mrs. Schmaltz asked Mr. Burden if boro can hire a tree expert to come in and either remove or thin tree. Mr. Burden says "yes."

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC

3. Sue Binns (27 Birch Drive) is concerned about an oak tree on her property but in boro right-of way. JCP&L looked at tree and felt no action was needed. Mr. Svikhart suggests STC get responses in writing, STC members agree with suggestion.

4. Grove West – residents on Allen St. report of two dead evergreens bordering residential properties. Mrs. Schmaltz spoke with Grove who will take care of removing trees.

5. Boro Hall – two cherry trees have been removed from behind building. Roots were affecting water lines.

6. Shrewsbury Boro School – tree was removed at base of Obre Place. Stump will be removed by DPW. Mrs. Schmaltz suggests small tree at either end of guard rail with evergreen hedge in between.

7. 57 Shadowbrook Rd. – after close examination it looks like canopy of tree is loose and dead limbs high up. Tree will be removed.

8. 45 Spruce Dr. – tree showing signs of dead limbs and damage; will be removed.

9. 47 Birch Dr. – resident complains of mess because of acorns. This is not a valid reason to remove healthy tree.

10. Moeller property (Colonial Dr.) – homeowner complains deer have rubbed against trees stripping bark. Mrs. Schmaltz suggested Mrs. Moeller read recent newsletter for ways to protect trees.

11. Tree List – handed out to STC members. All members in favor of designated locations. Mr. Svikhart suggests tree planters be aware of sprinkler systems as well as marked utilities. STC members, keep ears open for residents who need trees for spring planting.

D. Newsletter – Mr. Svikhart will write article for upcoming newsletter on health ramifications from our close proximity to deer.

E. Manson Park – Mrs. Schmaltz shared conversation she had with Councilman Menapace regarding cleaning up Manson Park. DPW will be thinning out vegetation with bigger items being taken care of first. Mrs. Schmaltz suggests STC members walk path to see what is being done and what needs to be done.

F. Arbor Day Idea – Mrs. Schmaltz reported on group of Brownies who met with Garden Club to plant daffodil bulbs at new sign on corner of Broad St. and Sycamore Ave. STC suggests planting a tree flanking or behind sign. Computer and Electronics Recycling Day/Earth Day will be held on April 17, 2010.

- G. Welcome to Shrewsbury Signs** – Mrs. Preissler informed STC of a possible Eagle Scout project to place “Welcome” signs at strategic spots in boro. She will keep STC posted.
- H. Paul David Partywares** – no STC concerns at this point. STC is happy to see all native plants being used in rain garden.

IV. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for December 12, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.in the Municipal Center.

Susan Milnes, Secretary