

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission
Nov 11, 2020
Hybrid Meeting = Owen Conference Room (OC) and Zoom (Z)

Call to Order at 7:30 PM

Roll Call:

OC: Randy Santoro, Al Werner, Ryan Wallace, Jack Gray.

Z: Frank Goodhart, Cindy Aiken, Kate Creegan, Linda Sims.

Absent: Jim Baldassare, Judy O'Connell.

Previous Month's Minutes

- Approved (October)

Bills/Correspondence

- Reimbursement of registration fee for the 4 commissioners that attended the Annual NJSTF Conference (\$125 each) is in progress.

Arbor Day

- none

Charter Day

- Cancelled for 2020.

Education Report

- Commissioners reviewed information presented at the 2020 NJ Shade Tree Federation conference held virtually on the week of October 19-23, 2020. Randy described the new NJCF Management Plan guidelines which are targeted to be released in October 2021. New CFMPs will be required to have an inventory component. A community tree inventory must be compiled by professionals, not by volunteers as we have done in the past. NJUCF will put out bids for consulting foresters to do tree inventory work. NJUCF expects grants to be available starting in 2021 to be used towards creating a municipal tree inventory.
- The Annual Partners in Community Forestry Conference presented by the Arbor Day Foundation will be held virtually on Nov 16 - 20, 2020. The registration fee is \$45. It was agreed that Randy will attend.

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Ryan reported that many street trees in various locations throughout the Township were removed or pruned.
- The county has begun work removing the large sugar maple on N. Finley in the center of town and will complete the work this week as the weather allows.
- Ryan and some commissioners will meet with the Liberty Corner Fire Company this week about the Church Street "donation" trees. There may also be a street tree location for planting at Liberty Corner School.

Old Business

- We need to place the eight 2019 stickers on our Tree City USA signs.
- The annual tree survey for Zones 1 and 4 was done on November 4 this year (as per our 5 Year Plan); Ryan drove, Al and Jack spotted trees and Randy compiled the list. Everyone wore a face mask.
- Randy noted that the Arbor Day Foundation has a Tree Campus K-12 program which may be a source of program material for schools to incorporate in classroom activities.

New Business / Member Comments

- Cindy will setting up a Zoom meeting for next month so we can continue hybrid meetings for the foreseeable future.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions we will not have our traditional holiday food sharing at the December meeting.

Action Items from 11/11 meeting:

- o Al, Jack, Ryan and Randy will meet with Chris Hurst of the Liberty Corner Fire Company on Thursday November 12th about planting trees.
- o Randy will register for the Partners in Community Forestry conference and attend virtually the week of November 16th.

Adjournment – 8:20 PM

Next meeting – Wednesday, December 16 – Owen Conference Room and Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Santoro