

**Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission**  
**January 15, 2020**

**Call to Order** at 7:30

**Roll Call Present:** Linda Sims, Jack Gray, Frank Goodhart, Randy Santoro, Mike Zaidel, Cindy Aiken, Kate Creegan, Al Werner **Absent:** Fred Burgerhoff, Ryan Wallace, Jim Baldassare

**Previous Month's Minutes**

- Approved.

**Introductions / Elections**

- Al and Mike were reappointed, Kate Creegan is our new member
- Chair: Randy Santoro
- Vice Chair: Al Werner
- Appointed Al Werner to the Tree Protection Committee

**Bills/Correspondence**

- No bills.
- Problem with Shade Tree Commission landing page – Judy will take care of it.
- We have been awarded a seedling from the fallen Salem Oak by the State Park Service. It should arrive in mid April in time for the Environmental Protection's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Earth Day 2020.
- Discussed the TD Bank grant as well as the Sustainable Forestry Grant – both are due by the end of January.

**Education Report**

- Al watched Tree Care and Urban Soils from Utah – discussed air spading and vertical mulching.
- Jack shared an article on Botanical Sexism and home-grown allergies. He will continue research and share at future meetings.
- There is a meeting of the Society of American Foresters on January 30 in Bordentown – Randy will share the email.

**Charter Day / Arbor Day**

- NJ Forestry Service will not be doing tube seedlings this year – do we want to buy bare root seedlings for school programs? Randy asked all to consider what we would like to do this year – but the Environmental Center will be distributing trees. Discussed possibility of getting notification in the Public school's "Friday Folder".
- Jack would like to have a "How to Plant a Tree" workshop and publicize at Charter Day.

**Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings**

- Jack reported about 40 ash trees have been removed from the trails at Pleasant Valley park – there are probably 40 more to go.
- Ryan asked Randy to take a look at the trees in the Maple Ave Municipal lot – paving work is being done.

**New Business / Member Comments**

- We will continue to look for grant opportunities – hopefully with better timelines.
- Mike mentioned the Mountain View project from December discussion – it has a favored status with the state – we will probably not be seeing any replacement tree revenue.
- Talked about the newsletter which was discussed by the 2019 Communications Task Force – while no newsletter is in place, Judy reminded members we can include articles on our own web page.
- Kate volunteered to research cost of the brochures Linda shared.
- Cindy will continue working on the Tree City USA application and our 2019 Annual Report to the Township Committee.

Adjournment – 9:05 PM

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2020

**Respectfully Submitted, Judy O'Connell - Secretary**