

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

February 12, 2020

Call to Order at 7:30

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

Previous Month's Minutes

- Approved.

Bills/Correspondence

- Membership in NJ Shade Tree Federation (\$145 for 7 members).

Arbor Day

- Randy would like to have the school programs continue, even though the tube seedlings are not available.
- Fred suggested one larger tree per school, he will reach out to the schools for input.
- * Secretary's note: Arbor Day Resolution will be at the March 24 Township Committee meeting.

Charter Day

- Judy gave application to Randy.
- Kate researched the tree planting brochure, but it is not in print any longer. We are free to copy from their website as it is public information. Kate will get estimates on copying costs. Linda will check with her contacts at Somerset County. Judy will verify printing budget, will continue discussion at March meeting.
- Randy will check with Jen Gander about the proposed "Plant a Tree Workshop" location.

Education Report

- Jack prepared information on Botanical Sexism for an article in the Bernardsville News. After discussion, he will "re-work" some of the wording and discuss at the March meeting.
- Frank mentioned some interesting books he's read about forestry and land development in North America.

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Ryan reported about 75 Ash trees have been removed in Pleasant Valley Park. No evidence of Emerald Ash Borer reported.
- Continued removing trees in various locations throughout the Township – Madisonville Rd, Brook Ave, Birch Drive.
- Verizon removed a large tree near 119 W Oak St which was interfering with their wires.
- Ryan asked Randy to take a look at the trees in the Maple Ave Municipal lot – paving work is being done – Al and Randy will look.
- Ryan will take a look at a large maple on South Finley, reported to have some dead limbs – would like the County to take care of it.

Old Business

- Cindy completed the Annual Report and Tree City USA application – Judy sent to the Township Committee and they were approved at the 2/11 meeting; Randy submitted to State on 2/12.
- Randy reminded the group that our Annual Report is due to the Township Committee by 1/15, will complete at our December meeting for 2020.

New Business / Member Comments

- Frank mentioned the American Conifer Society – might be offering a grant in the future, he will monitor for us.
- Discussed possibly having a large Ash tree at PVP treated for EAB, Ryan will discuss with the Contractor.

Action Items from 2/12 meeting:

- Fred:
 - o will reach out to Township schools regarding Arbor Day activities
- Randy:
 - o will complete and return Charter Day application
 - o Will check with Jen Gander about location for “Plant a Tree” workshop
 - o Will look at trees in the Municipal parking lot on So Maple Ave
- Kate:
 - o Will get estimates on cost of printing the Tree Planting Guide
- Linda:
 - o Will check with her contacts at Somerset County for the same
- Judy:
 - o Will verify budget for printing expenses
- Ryan:
 - o Will look at large maple tree on So Finley Ave – might be able to have Somerset County prune or remove it prior to Charter Day

Adjournment – 9:05 PM

Next meeting – Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy O’Connell - Secretary