

# **Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission**

## **May 12, 2021**

Hybrid Meeting = Owen Conference Room (OC) and Zoom (Z)

**Call to Order** at 7:00 PM

### **Roll Call:**

**OC:** Randy Santoro, Jack Gray, Gregory Axt, Al Werner (7:30 PM).

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

**Absent:** Jim Baldassare, Ryan Wallace

### **Public Meeting Statement**

### **Public Comments**

- none

### **Previous Month's Minutes**

- Approved

### **Bills/Correspondence**

- Bill for the flyers Kate created (\$15.68).
- Mayor Fields sent Randy an email from a Ridge High Girl Scout who would like to plant 5,000,000 trees. Randy suggested the Commission would provide a tree; Jack would like to be an advisor to the project.

### **Arbor Day**

- 200 trees were given away (Thank you Kate for picking them up; and thank you Al for getting the soil from DPW, and thank you all for helping with potting and distribution).
- Kate achieved the next to impossible task of getting mention in the Bernardsville News and Star Ledger!
- Tina DelGiorno received 7 trees for the Bernardsville Junior Womens Club for their Poster contest participants.

### **Charter Day**

- Looking forward for 2022!

### **Education Report**

- Linda participated in a talk on the Spotted Lantern Fly – seems Somerset County is not as hard hit as neighboring counties.

### **Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings**

- various pruning and removals continue throughout Township.

- our Spring plantings were planted in Liberty Corner School and Liberty Corner Fire Company.
- Jack mentioned that the Spring Ridge Ash tree removals in progress.

### **Old Business**

- Need volunteers for placing the “16 Year” stickers on our Tree City USA signs – Cindy, Al, Greg, Kate and Randy will handle.
- Our Anti-Harassment training is complete – thank you all!

### **New Business**

- Article on the Spotted Lantern Fly from the Star Ledger was passed around – the Environmental Commission is also interested. Jorge Casacuberta (DPW Superintendent) has stated that we are not currently removing any Tree of Heaven from the Township properties. All felt that educating the public on killing/removing the egg masses is important.
- Randy received an email from the Urban and Community Forestry announcing Stewardship proposals for Grants for Resiliency Planning (up to \$50,000 available) and up to \$150,000 for reforestation. Calls for a 25% match, but doesn’t mention funding or in kind hours – Deadline is July 9. We will be required to have a tree inventory for the next 5 Year Plan. Should we try for a grant – deadline is short for TC approval – Randy will work on it and send it out to members – all are reminded not to “reply all” with comments.
- Commissioners Zones:
  - o 1 Cindy
  - o 2 Randy, Kate
  - o 3 Randy, Linda
  - o 4 Jack, Scott
  - o 5 Al
  - o 6 Jack
  - o 7 Frank
  - o 8 Greg

Adjournment – 8:30 PM

Next meeting – Wednesday, June 16 – Owen Conference Room at 7:00 PM

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Judy O’Connell**  
**Secretary**