

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

April 12, 2023

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Randy Santoro, Kate Creegan, Al Werner, Gregory Axt, Cindy Aiken, Jack Gray, Nick Fetchko

Absent: Frank Goodhart, Tom Nicoletti, Jim Baldassare

Previous Month's Minutes

- approved

Bills/Correspondence

- inquiry from resident on Pine Street asking about neighbor's tree – Tom spoke with them, tree not in right of way.
- Discussed Al's attendance at ISA conference, we will pay the registration fee, Nick also attended but felt he needs it for his license and declined to submit invoice.

Arbor Day / Charter Day

- Arbor Day – 200 trees were approved by the State Nursery, will be giving away at the Environmental Center on 4/28. Al will pick up, potting will be at the EEC on 4/27 for those available; Judy will update website and post on Township's Facebook page.
- Charter Day – May 20th. 6-10 trees from Arbor Day will be kept for Quiz prizes.

Education Report

- Voted to approve \$125 for Jack to attend the Invasive Species Conference at Duke Farms.

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Update from Tom – many prunings and removals throughout town.
- Nick noticed an issue with a tulip tree near 130 Lake Rd; Randy will email Tom.

Public Comments

- none.

Old Business

- discussed Garden Club project – Jen Gander approved 10 Oak trees to go in to the upper parking lot at Pleasant Valley Park, project would be done in the Fall, after the new lights are installed. The Garden Club will pay half, directly to the nursery.
- We received our Tree City USA 18th year stickers, Kate, Al and Randy will post.
- Randy has spoken with the Township Planner about the project being reviewed at 150 Allen Road, no updates.
- We have enough CEU's for 2023.

New Business

- Randy mentioned the trees around the Washington House restaurant and parking lot – they

- have been butchered! Discussed possibility of sending letter to the owners, these are street trees and should not have been touched.
- Randy mentioned the NJ DEP model tree ordinance, they are looking for comments by 5/12. Randy will email to commissioners, please read and send comments back to Randy (reminder – do not “reply all”!)

Commissioners Zones:

- 1 Cindy
- 2 Randy, Kate
- 3 Randy
- 4 Jack
- 5 Al
- 6 Jack
- 7 Nick
- 8 Greg

Adjournment – 8:25 PM
Next meeting – May 10, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy O’Connell
Secretary