

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

October 20, 2021

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Randy Santoro, Gregory Axt, Scott Kessel, Jack Gray, Jorge Casacuberta, Tom Nicoletti.

Zoom: Cindy Aiken, Linda Sims, Kate Creegan, Frank Goodhart

Absent: Al Werner, Jim Baldassare.

Public Meeting Statement

- Not read

Public Comments

- none

Previous Month's Minutes

- Approved

Bills/Correspondence

- Randy approved Purchase orders for Al Werner, Scott Kessel, Greg Axt and Jack Gray for conference attendance. Judy mentioned proof of payment is required in order to process.
- Letter from resident at 97 Governor Drive concerning the bushes on Township property near his yard. Jorge and Tom looked, we will not be trimming or treating the bushes as requested – Jorge will contact the homeowner.

Arbor Day

- No updates

Charter Day

- Looking forward for 2022!

Education Report

- Invasive Species Conference at Duke Farms – Jack, Al, Scott and Greg attended – Scott and Greg thought it was very interesting, planned (controlled) burns were discussed. Jack was disappointed that SLF was not discussed. CEU's will be awarded, so we have more than required for Tree City USA.
- Shade Tree Conference – Al is attending as we meet – hopefully some of the presentations will be available online after the conference.
- Linda shared education information from the Native Plant Society (see email from 10/14)

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Jorge discussed the tree planting at Mountain Park – we will need a markout (about \$850) – we

- decided to delay our fall plantings until DPW needs a markout – probably in the Spring.
- Our tree contractor (Harmony) has been working throughout the Township but is having problems getting the cranes out – needed on Hardscrabble Rd.
 - Discussed the project recently completed at the War Memorial Field – Jack questioned the tree selection – Jorge reported they were recommended by the Great Swamp Greenhouse.
 - Jack supplied a list of dead trees near Acken & Kindred Court – Jorge will take a look.
 - Jorge will participate in the next Windshield survey – November/December.

Old Business

- Still encouraging residents to stomp on the Spotted Lantern Flies and kill the egg masses.

New Business

- none.
- 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 – 8:10 PM

Next meeting – November 10, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy O’Connell
Secretary