

Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

Minutes from Zoom Meeting

May 24, 2021

Attendees: Ann Cade, Phyllis Fast, Mary Ellen Grunther, Susan Jeans, Gordon Redgate, Paul Tamburri, and Mary DeLello (recorder).

Absent: Theresa Dill, Al Gallo, Peter O'Neill, and Guy Piserchia

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Susan.

Gordon moved to accept the April 26, 2021 meeting minutes, Susan seconded, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Spring Challenge Grant** – A total of twenty trees were planted including four Oaks, five Maples, one Magnolia, one Spruce, three Flowering Cherries, and a Pear tree. Ann and Susan will go around to see how the trees are doing. A 16-foot-tall Pin Oak was placed at Stirling Lake for the Arbor Day Celebration
- 2. Boy Scout Project** – Thomas Osmond, Eagle Scout, has to date planted around 30 trees at the Gillette and Millington Schools and at the Stirling Train Station. The bulk of the remaining trees will be planted at the Hick's Tract and the Recreation Department will help with the placement of the trees.
- 3. Tree Ordinance Article** – Tree ordinance article will be submitted to papers and the Township website after submission of the Tree City and Arbor Day articles.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Presentation by Alec Meehan from Code Enforcement** – The protocol for issue with a tree is to call Town Hall who can contact Alec Meehan who will in turn contact Susan if he has a question. Alec is stepping in for Tom Delia. Alec works part-time 9:30 until 2:00 Monday through Friday. Ordinance for Long Hill Township is great but sections could be updated. Alec cited section 1-5.1 that states maximum penalty for unauthorized tree removal is a fine not to exceed \$2,000. If not rectified in the first day, rolling fine of \$2,000 per day. This fine may become excessive. Alec works on 3 strike rule; warning, violation form, summons. If Alec issues a summons, the person would appear before Judge McBride. Alec finds it most effective to discuss with home owners the effects of removing trees on drainage and soil erosion. Identifying a hazardous tree is a difficult part of the tree removal ordinance as Alec is not a tree expert. Susan suggested that John Linson can accompany Alec to inspect a tree to determine if a hazardous tree. Alec can put in purchase order for John Linson's time and would coordinate with Susan. Susan will arrange a meeting between Alec and John Linson. Ann raised the question of how people, especially people new to the Township, would know about the tree removal ordinance. An article describing the tree removal ordinance will be placed on the Township website and in the local papers. New people can contact Megan at Town Hall for more information. Phyllis will put description of Tree City designation on Long Hill TV.
- 2. NJUCF 2021 Stewardship Grant** – Susan will work with Nancy Malool to see if the Township grant writer can work on this grant.
- 3. Beautification Committee** – Gordon is a member of the Beautification Committee and will act as liaison. One of the projects the Beautification Committee is working on is the establishment of a community garden on property behind the library.
- 4. Shade Tree Commission Cards** – Mary will contact Shayne Daly about making Township Shade Tree Commission cards and will contact the Shade Tree Federation for membership cards.

5. **JCP&L** - Nelson trimmed trees using directional pruning. Pros and cons of pruning were discussed. Mary will send out recommended list of durable, major street trees and right of way documents.

Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25, Paul seconded, all in favor.

► Next meeting: **Monday, June 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM, location to be determined.**

Submitted by Mary DeLello, Recorder