Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission  
January 15, 2020

Call to Order  at 7:30

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

Previous Month’s Minutes
-  Approved.

Introductions / Elections
-  Al and Mike were reappointed, Kate Creegan is our new member
-  Chair:  Randy Santoro
-  Vice Chair:  Al Werner
-  Appointed Al Werner to the Tree Protection Committee

Bills/Correspondence
-  No bills.
-  Problem with Shade Tree Commission landing page – Judy will take care of it.
-  We have been awarded a seedling from the fallen Salem Oak by the State Park Service.  It should arrive in mid April in time for the Environmental Protection’s 50th Birthday on Earth Day 2020.
-  Discussed the TD Bank grant as well as the Sustainable Forestry Grant – both are due by the end of January.

Education Report
-  Al watched Tree Care and Urban Soils from Utah – discussed air spading and vertical mulching.
-  Jack shared an article on Botanical Sexism and home-grown allergies.  He will continue research and share at future meetings.
-  There is a meeting of the Society of American Foresters on January 30 in Bordentown – Randy will share the email.

Charter Day / Arbor Day
-  NJ Forestry Service will not be doing tube seedlings this year – do we want to buy bare root seedings for school programs?  Randy asked all to consider what we would like to do this year – but the Environmental Center will be distributing trees.  Discussed possibility of getting notification in the Public school’s “Friday Folder”.
-  Jack would like to have a “How to Plant a Tree” workshop and publicize at Charter Day.

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings
-  Jack reported about 40 ash trees have been removed from the trails at Pleasant Valley park – there are probably 40 more to go.
-  Ryan asked Randy to take a look at the trees in the Maple Ave Municipal lot – paving work is being done.

New Business / Member Comments
-  We will continue to look for grant opportunities – hopefully with better timelines.
-  Mike mentioned the Mountain View project from December discussion – it has a favored status with the state – we will probably not be seeing any replacement tree revenue.
-  Talked about the newsletter which was discussed by the 2019 Communications Task Force – while no newsletter is in place, Judy reminded members we can include articles on our own web page.
-  Kate volunteered to research cost of the brochures Linda shared.
-  Cindy will continue working on the Tree City USA application and our 2019 Annual Report to the Township Committee.

Adjournment – 9:05 PM
Next meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,  Judy O'Connell - Secretary