

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

May 10, 2023

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Randy Santoro, Kate Creegan, Al Werner, Gregory Axt, Jack Gray, Nick Fetchko, Tom Nicoletti **Absent:** Cindy Aiken, Frank Goodhart, Jim Baldassare

Previous Month's Minutes

- approved

Bills/Correspondence

- Judy forwarded email from NJ Shade Tree Federation – “Tree Talk” for 5/17.
- Purchase order for Jack to attend the Invasive Species conference at Duke Farms (\$110).

Arbor Day / Charter Day

- Arbor Day – trees from the State Nursery were distributed at the Environmental Center; Randy had residents sign in and he sent the sheet to Alec McCartney.
- Charter Day – May 20th. Al, Kate and Cindy will be available; Al will pick up supplies and be at the set up in the morning.

Education Report

- Randy and Jack attended the Invasive Species conference at Duke Farms.

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Tom mentioned the contractor will be working throughout Township – he will look at the issue with a tulip tree near 130 Lake Rd; Randy had mentioned he would email Tom about it at the April meeting.

Public Comments

- none.

Old Business

- Tree City USA signs have been updated with the 18 Year stickers.
- proposed Tree Ordinance from the State that Randy asked Commissioners to look at between April and May meetings and make comments. Comments are due to the State on 5/12.
- Randy spoke with the owners of the Washington House about their recent tree pruning. Randy has been assured that the owner is committed to maintaining the trees.

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.
- Nick has volunteered to create a list of “Recommended Trees” for homeowners to plant.

Commissioners Zones:

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

Adjournment – 8:30 PM

Next meeting – June 14, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy O’Connell
Secretary