

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission

February 14, 2024

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

- Present: Randy Santoro, Al Werner, Jack Gray, Gregory Axt, Tom Nicoletti, Ana Duarte McCarthy
- Absent: Kate Creegan, AJ Laferrera, Nick Fetchko, Madhu Anna

Public Comments:

- none.

Previous Month's Minutes

- approved.

Bills/Correspondence

- Randy received the Charter Day application, he will request our 'usual' location.

Arbor Day / Charter Day

- Randy sent in the application for Arbor Day tree seedlings – will do our distribution again with the Environmental Center. The Arbor Day Foundation would like us to send in pictures for their publicity campaign.
- Charter Day will be May 18, 2024

Education Report

- Al attended "Turf" seminars, and he and Nick will attend the NJAISA conference in March.
- Randy attended a Tree Talk about girdling and 2 Chestnut Tree seminars

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Tom reported that the contractor will start next week.
- We will plant the 10 Oak trees in Pleasant Valley Park in the Spring (project with Garden Club). Tom also suggested looking at the open areas in PVP to see if we might do a Fall planting in many of the open areas of the park.
- JCP&L has Nelson Tree Service working in the Township, they have a forester looking to take care of the compromised trees near power lines.

Old Business

- Discussed proposed changes to the Shade Tree Ordinances – sent by Township Engineer Tom Timko. Randy will gather comments and send to Tom.
- Review of goals for 2024:
 - o Conduct windshield survey in Zones 1 & 4
 - o Review plantings in Parks

- Randy will speak with Township Planner David Schley about the Master Plan.
- Tree City USA
- NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference
- Consider Growth Award submission
- Ana suggested publicizing Tree City USA signs, details of the program and location of the signs throughout the Township.

New Business

- Ana mentioned that she and Deputy Mayor Janice Fields are working on plans for our 265th Anniversary in 2025.

Adjournment – 8:50 PM

Next meeting – March 13, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy O’Connell
Secretary

Current Zone Assignments:

Randy	3&2
Al	1&5
Greg	8
Kate	2
Nick	7
Jack	4&6
AJ	5
Madhu	1