



Metuchen Shade Tree Commission – Meeting Minutes – June 7th, 2022

Attending: Jeremy Campbell, Tim Brosnan, Ruchir Mewawala, Ken Sammond

Not Attending: Dorothy Rasmussen, Bettina Caluori, John Watt

No members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 5/3/2022 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Commission members who were in attendance.

Nadiyah Cheatham

The commission unanimously, but regretfully, accepted the resignation of Commission member Nadiyah Cheatham.

State Certification Renewal

The previously agreed decision to make to re-certify the borough's state certification remains a priority and is underway. The first step is updating and filing the Annual Accomplishment Report.

Borough Tree Inventory – Access and Update

Open Issue – Dorothy was unable to attend the meeting. An update is needed on Dorothy's request to the borough administrator for the funds (~\$2K) needed to re-access the borough's tree inventory. As previously noted, it has been several years since the database was updated, and following renewed access, steps will be taken to bring the data up to a current state.

Arbor Day

The Commission celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, April 29th. STC members Dorothy Rasmussen, Bettina Caluori, Jeremy Campbell, Ken Sammond, Nadiyah Cheatham, and Tim Brosnan were in attendance along with Metuchen Library staff. A tree was planted at the Metuchen Public Library (Library Place side) and Dorothy read an Arbor Day Proclamation.

New Business

The borough website page for the Shade Tree Commission needs updating. Issues such as dated event photos, Commission member names, meeting minutes, and contact data need to be refreshed.

Tim contacted the state about videos and speakers for increasing public awareness and education. As of this meeting, he had not heard back from the state and will follow up.

A discussion was held regarding the STC having a stand at the town farmers market in the Fall. Tim agreed to follow up with the state to see what materials can be provided. Jeremy will follow up on getting access to the storage room at the Metuchen Senior Center.

A discussion was held regarding ways to better educate landscapers doing work in the borough and borough DPW staff doing tree maintenance work in town parks. The Commission agreed to discuss what kind of requirements can be put into place to educate and oversee contractors.

CORE trained Commission members expressed an interest in knowing more about Continuing Education courses. Jeremy will send the link to the current course offerings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission is August 2nd at 7:30PM at Borough Hall. There will be no meeting in July.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.