

CHESTER BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 27, 2020

The Regular meeting of the Chester Borough Shade Tree Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm. Chairman Don Hoven stated that proper notice had been given for this meeting in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" as follows: notice was published in the official newspapers, The Observer Tribune and Daily Record, posted on the bulletin board at the Borough Municipal Building and filed with the Borough Clerk.

Due to the COVID 19 Emergency this meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The Remote Meeting Notice with instructions on how to join for public participation was posted at the Borough Municipal Building.

Present: Don Hoven, Chuck Feller, Marla Jackson, Ian Davidson and Anita Rhodes

Chairman Hoven reported that Denean Probasco, Borough Clerk has researched and gathered all yearly leaf plaques from Tree City Awards from the past 35 years and had them decoratively mounted. The members thanked her and noted that this was very much appreciated and appropriate for the Borough's 90th anniversary.

Reading & Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 26, 2020 were deferred.

The Secretary noted that no Shade Tree Commission meetings were held in March and April.

Correspondence

02/27/2020 From STC Re: Personal CFO Real Estate, LLC - Installation inspection

03/06/2020 From STC: Re: The Car Wash at Chester, LLC - Plan Review

SITE PLANS

The Car Wash at Chester, LLC - Block 131, Lot 5 (45 Maple Avenue)

A revised Planting Plan, dated May 15, 2020, was not distributed to STC prior to this meeting. Don Hoven reported that he now has the plans and that the reason for the delay was the closing of the Borough offices due to the virus. After review comments will be issued.

Black River Veterinary Hospital – Block 103, Lot 51 (114 Route 206)

Lighting and Landscaping Plan, dated February 4, 2020, show no additional landscaping even as the rear buffer towards residential property is proposed to be reduced.

Only a small portion of the landscaping from a previous application from 2012 was ever installed and the site is therefore not in compliance. Copy of an installation report from STC, dated September 23, 2016 was sent to the Construction Office and Land Use Board as background information.

INSTALLATIONS

The Publick House - Block 107, Lot 17 (127 Main Street)

Pending.

Personal CFO Real Estate , LLC - Block 119, Lot 12 (384 Main Street)

Pending reinspection.

OTHER BUSINESS

TREE REMOVAL/TREE PLANTING

Commission members walked all through Shadow Ridge and part of Main Street to look at the conditions of the street trees. Both maples and zelkovas are declining rapidly in Shadow Ridge and 23 trees were marked for removal. Pruning and “watch’ list will also be updated.

Marla Jackson confirmed that a representative from the Morris County Shade Tree Department had examined an infected ash tree near 260 Main Street, and that they will take the tree down even though the tree is not inside the County Right of Way. She also reported that there is visible damage of borers to an ash on Ammerman Way.

Another inspection of trees was scheduled for this Saturday, May 30.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPLICATION FOR TREE CITY for 2019 (35th year)

Lauren Wayers at the Arbor Day Foundation has confirmed via e-mail that Chester Borough’s application for 2019 was approved.

FIND NEW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AS CONSULTANT TO STC

The Borough Attorney has advised that a contract to continue to use Marla Roller is not possible due to conflict of interest.

A CV for John Olivio, LLA, ASLA at Bosenberg Landscape Architecture in Far Hills was received this afternoon for consideration.

ARBOR DAY 2020

The seedling give away scheduled for April 25th was cancelled. The Township has proposed May 30th or June 6th as alternative dates. Members present all hesitated to participate and interact with the public at this time.

BUDGET FOR 2020

Chuck Feller will find out if the request for \$20,750 was approved by the Council.

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Feller and seconded by Marla Jackson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita I. Rhodes

Secretary

Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Chester Borough Shade Tree Commission on June 24, 2020.