

Allentown Shade Tree Commission  
January 23, 2025 7:00 pm

Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/92252581473> Meeting ID 922 5258 1473

Phone in 1-646-558-8656  
Minutes

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Terry Brown

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call Volunteer Hours

Terry Brown – present 38

Bob Mayer - present 4

Lisa Strovinsky – present 4

Michael Sullivan - excused

Suzanne Valpreda – present 1

Valerie Pellecchia – absent

John Elder – Council Liaison – present 1.5

Compliance Statement was read

Approval of Minutes The minutes from the December 19, 2024 meeting will be presented at the February meeting. Only 2 members present attended the December meeting.

Announcements and Information

Volunteer Hours The total volunteer hours for December are 48.5.

Public Participation There was no public participation.

Old Business There was no Old Business on the agenda

New Business

2025 Reorganization – The following are the officers for 2025

Chairperson – Terry Brown, nominated by Bob Mayer, seconded by Lisa Stravinsky

Vice Chairperson – Lisa Stravinsky, nominated by Terry Brown, seconded by Bob Mayer

Secretary – Valeria Pellecchia nominated by Terry Brown, seconded by Lisa Stravinsky

All nominations were approved by a voice vote.

CFMP - Terry will present our new 5 Year CFMP plan to Borough Council for their approval at their February 11, 2025 meeting. When the plan is approved and signed by the mayor he will submit it to the NJ Forest Service.

Members approved scheduling a class on the Biology of Trees given by Kevin Scibilia during 2025.

As part of our 2025 CFMP tasks we discussed how we would attack the invasive plant growth in Heritage Park. We will continue to remove the Callery Pear trees when they are blooming. We will also work on removing other invasive plant throughout the park working on small sections one at a time. We will invite the public to help with this



project.

We are planning to have our Arbor Day celebration during the Spring Stroll in Allentown that will be held on April 26th. We will introduce our program to encourage homeowners to plant trees in their yards. Lisa will put together a flyer about the benefits of having trees, a list of desirable trees and caring for trees. Other ideas to encourage homeowners are having DPW plant the trees, STC making a donation toward the purchase of a tree and inviting the public to a talk given by Alex from Good Earth during an Allentown Garden Club meeting.

Terry reported 2 new Commemorative trees will be planted in Heritage Park this spring. John will instruct DPW to plant the Christmas trees donated by Keris Tree Farm to be planted in Farmer Park in March.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourn at 8:10 PM