

## **Allentown Shade Tree Commission**

**April 25, 2024 7:00 pm Agenda**

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

Phone in 1-646-558-8656

**Call to Order** : 7:01PM

**Salute to the Flag**

### **Roll Call**

- Terry Brown
- Kristine Hyer
- Bob Mayer
- Lisa Strovinsky
- Michael Sullivan
- Suzanne Valpreda
- Valerie Pellecchia
- John Elder (council liaison)

### **Compliance Statement**

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" Chapter 231, PL. 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of the meeting by posting a Notice in a public place and by transmitting a Notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS as required by law.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- **Pending Approval**

### **Announcements and Information**

- Spring Stroll, we had 25 people put in for the raffle.
- Tree City USA, we have been recognized for the 7th year in a row. Our growth award was also given for the 4th year in a row.
- Community Forestry Management plan has been approved for the past year. This helps with grants.

### **STC Volunteer Hours**

- Terry Brown - 17
- Kristine Hyer - 1
- Bob Mayer - 3
- Lisa Strovinsky - 5
- Michael Sullivan - 9
- Suzanne Valpreda - 3
- Valerie Pellecchia - 4
- John Elder - 1

### **Public Participation**

### Old Business

- Encourage residents to plant trees project
- Create new Community Forestry Management plan for 2025-2029
  - Need to create a write-up to submit to add for the plan
  - Potential to focus on one park per year
- CEUs - Kevin Scibilia can tailor a session to whatever topic we would like. Listed below are potential topics for CEU training sessions:
  - Tree identification, field
  - Hazard tree identification, field
  - Tree pruning basics, field and/or class
  - Tree inventory practices, field and/or class
  - **Relevant tree biology, field and/or class - top choice**
  - Pruning small trees for structure, field
  - Tree planting, field and/or class
  - Detection and treatment of girdling roots, field
  - Root function and growth, class
  - Electrical hazards, field and/or class
  - Wildfire mitigation, class

### New Business

- Hazard tree assessment in Union AME lot
  - Electric line is a target (3), Roots are estimated to be at (3), Trunk health is unhealthy (3), Canopy rating (3). Tree is deemed hazardous, should be scheduled for immediate removal however this tree is on private property. Code enforcement officer will need to follow up on the responsible party as this does not fall under Allentown Shade Tree Commission scope.
- Invasive plants in Borough Parks
  - Several invasive species are in the borough parks that may need remediation. STC will assess and advise moving forward.
- Trees in Ashby - Mike
  - There is a lack of grass around the trees. In order to keep the integrity of the trees would be to mulch around them to prevent mower and weed whacker damage.
  - Fall planting will need to be assessed for the dead trees and if they can or should be replaced.
  - A joint meeting with STC, Roberts, and buildings and grounds would be helpful to have questions answered and come up with a solution for the park. STC will need to create a comprehensive list of items to address. John Elder to help set and plan the meeting.

- Issues of invasive plants creeping into public parks. Borough may need to use the invasive species ordinance to remedy this.
- Brainstorm ideas for working in alignment with DPW for trees in Ashby

**Adjournment** : 8:16PM