Allentown Shade Tree Commission
February, 2026 7:00 pm Minutes
Zoom - https://zoom.us/j/92252581473 Meeting ID 922 5258 1473
Phone in 1-646-558-8656

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Salute to the Flag

Role Call

Terry Brown - Present
Bob Mayer - Present
Lisa Strovinsky - Present
Michael Sullivan – Excused
Suzanne Valpreda - Present
Valerie Pellecchia - Excused
John Elder (Council liaison) - Present

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

- Motioned to approve - Lisa
- Second - Suzanne
- All in favor

Announcements and Information

- The Tree City and the Growth awards applications were approved by the Regional Tree City Organization. We are waiting for approval from national.
- The easement for Ashby was approved. Terry and STC will walk the area to review the shrubs and trees that may need to be removed.
- Mike noted that a large redbud was removed from the 37 Church street lot. This brought up a conversation regarding the Tree Replacement Ordinance, approved zoning plans, and enforcement of unpermitted tree removal.
- Lisa notified the commission that Governor Murphy signed in the “Invasive Species Management Act” which prohibits sale of certain invasive species. The commission may decide to relay the information to Allentown residents.

STC Volunteer Hours (Including December)

- Terry Brown - 15 hrs
- Bob Mayer - 1 hrs
- Lisa Strovinsky - 3 hrs
- Michael Sullivan -
- Suzanne Valpreda – 1 hrs
- Valerie Pellecchia -
- John Elder - 2 hrs

Public Participation

- No one was present for public participation

Old Business

- Agreed to have joint Arbor Day celebration with the Garden Club by having residents participate in the club's Spring plant sale.
- Continue work on educational material about ivy removal.
- Investigate what other towns are doing about Champion Trees that are on private properties.

New Business

- Liberty Tree planting – it was agreed that the Commission would purchase a plaque and look at local nurseries to purchase a Princeton Elm. It will be planted in Heritage Park to the south of the Gordon St. lot.

New Business

- Liberty Tree Program
    - The commission voted to purchase a tree from the Liberty Tree Program, plaque, and 1-year guarantee of the tree for a total cost of $215.
    - All in favor
- Vines on the trees in the Borough
    - Residents are concerned about the English Ivy on some of the trees in Allentown. These trees are located on residents property. Lisa suggested creating promotional content to bring awareness to the harm that the ivy can cause.
- “Champion” tree program to bring awareness to the trees we have in town.
    - Lisa would like to bring awareness to some of the remarkable trees around Allentown. Winners or featured trees could be posted on the STC website, go out through the Newsletter, Homeowners could be awarded certificates, trees endowed with ribbons, etc. STC members will work on noting trees and locations through Google Drive over the next few months for candidates for the program.
- Community Outreach for Tree Plantings
    - The Environmental Commission is planning to host education programs for the borough. STC plans to partner with them. Some topics include:
        - Garden Tours
        - “How-to” plant and care for new trees
        - “Right Tree, Right Place”
        - Bio-Blitz

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm