

Allentown Shade Tree Commission
February 22, 2024 Minutes

Call to Order 7:02pm

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

- **November 2023 (December 2023 was canceled)**
 - Approval to accept by Suzanne
 - Seconded by Lisa

Announcements and Information

- John Elder has been appointed as the new council liaison for the Allentown Shade Tree Commission
- NJ Shade Tree Federation
 - 5 members of Allentown STC will be joining this
- Potential to join in with Green team for Sustainable NJ Project - TBD
- STC will be considering a (Commission Only) shared G Drive for easy accessibility of documents and information

STC Volunteer Hours

- Terry Brown - 12
- Kristine Hyer - ?
- Bob Mayer - 1
- Lisa Strovinsky - 3
- Michael Sullivan - 2
- Suzanne Valpreda - ?
- Valerie Pellecchia - 2

Public Participation

- Elaine Saullo had questions regarding a tree on Probasco Dr. and contacting the county Shade Tree Commission about plantings on rt. 526

Old Business

- Encourage residents to plant trees project

- Utilize the mock-ups we created to add to the weekly Boro email (and website) for visibility to the community
- Budget towards tree removal (2023)
 - Any trees that will need replacing, will work with DPW on potential solutions
- 2024 Budget
 - Once approved, a generous portion of the budget will be going towards tree removals. Once we have identified this, we can reassess what can be used for new plantings
- Tree City USA
 - Submitted and awaiting feedback.
- ANJEE inquiry for potential CEUs
 - CEUs can be offered but only during conferences in September. Conferences from 9am-3pm. 1 credit per hour. Will look into this further once we are closer to the conference date.

New Business

- Create new Community Forestry Management plan for 2025-2029
 - The 5 year plan will be due at the end of 2024. This will be approved with the state forester. The Commission will work on brainstorming ideas that we would like to focus on for 2025-2029. (Filling in Church Street, working with the county, etc.)
- Arbor Day
 - Spring Stroll booth with information about tree plantings and potential tree raffle. Details to be discussed at a later date.
- CEUs
 - Will connect with Kevin for potential classes. Will need 8 CEUs between at least 2 people. Valerie will look into classes further for professional development courses that may count towards CEUs
- Public Spaces cleanup/pruning
 - Will continue to work together on scheduling a pruning day. Primary concern will be Church Street and Main Street once the weather permits.

Adjournment 8:00 pm