

Allentown Shade Tree Commission
March 24, 2022 7:00 pm
Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/92252581473> Meeting ID 922 5258 1473
Phone in 1-646-558-8656

Minutes

Call to Order Terry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in person and via Zoom.

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call

Terry Brown - Present
Kristine Hyer - Present
Bob Mayer - Present
Lisa Strovinsky - Present
Michael Sullivan - Present
Suzanne Valpreda - Excused
Rob Stovinsky - 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 Lisa Strovinsky made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 24, 2022 meeting. Bob Mayer seconded the motion which passed by a voice vote.

STC Volunteer Hours The total volunteer hours for March are 30.

Public Participation

Old Business

The dates for the November and December 2022 STC meetings are Thursday, November 10 and Thursday, December 8.

Kevin Scibilia is available weekends at the end of April and the beginning of May. The suggested date for the Tree Identification course is Saturday, April 30th between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM in Heritage Park.

Lisa addressed a plan for the maintenance of the Street Lawn Gardens. Once the temperature is above 50 degrees the gardens need to be cleaned out, removing weeds and browned leaves, pruning shrubs and topping with mulch. We will wait to expand the Street Lawn Gardens until the Church Street project is completed. Jan Meerwarth suggested using astors in the gardens or Sensi Park.

Terry walked through Heritage Park and found 12 Tree Tags missing. He made 2 samples which are smaller than the current tags, white with black lettering and black with white lettering. It was decided to go with the white tags that stand out more. The tags will link to the STC website.

Connor from DPW will take a course on Hazardous Tree identification to be Terry's backup. The cost of Connor's course will come from the STC budget.

STC heard back from the Superintendent of Allentown Upper Freehold Schools on the Arbor Day Art Competition. He believes the competition should focus on High School students with STC members doing the judging. A flyer explaining the competition including size, points of contact and submission date is needed. The preferred sizes are 8.5x11 up to 12x18 inches. The winner will be chosen at April STC meeting and announced the following week. The type of tree to be planted to honor the winner will be chosen at the April meeting.

Terry will contact Laurie to decide the best way to advertise our Arbor Day Trees and Trails of Heritage Park Tour. Depending on the weather the tour will be held the weekend of April 9 or April 16.

Kristine gave an update on STC's Instagram account. So far we have 4 posts and 50 followers but need more content.

Our 2021 NJUCFP Annual Accomplishment Report has been accepted.

New Business

STC may hold an additional Arbor Day event to address the invasive plants/trees at the South Main Street end of Heritage Park. Work that needs to be done is weeding and stump treatment. Also discussed was the possibility of borrowing a backhoe from Robbinsville to dig a trench line to contain the Bamboo grove.

Terry will choose a day depending on the weather to do pruning in Heritage Park next week.

The ANJEC small grant has to be applied for by the Environmental Commission. STC can assist Environmental by suggesting ideas and helping them create the form. The drainage area issues in Heritage Park or pollinator gardens are two ideas.

Lisa suggested a possible Earth Day project for a town organization involving the community of building pollinator houses.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.