

**Allentown Shade Tree Commission**  
**December 17, 2020 7:00 pm**  
**Council Room, Allentown Municipal Building**  
**8 North Main Street, Allentown, NJ**

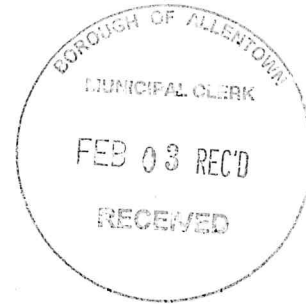
## Minutes

**Call to Order** Terry Brown called the meeting via conference call to order at 7:04 PM

**Salute to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

Terry Brown - present  
Kathy Fidler - present  
Bob Mayer - present  
Lisa Strovinsky - present  
Suzanne Valpreda – present  
Rob Strovinsky - excused



**Compliance Statement** was read by Suzanne Valpreda

**Approval of Minutes** Kathy Fidler made two motions to accept the minutes from the September 24, 2020 and October 22, 2020 meetings. Bob Mayer seconded both motions, which passed by voice votes.

**Announcements and Information**

Terry explained that Tree City has a Growth Award that STC can apply for. Members agreed we should apply for.

Pleasant Run Nursery donated many plants to Allentown that have been planted in town parks.

Terry has tried to contact the mayor, Roberts Engineering and Captian Construction about the damage done to the trees planted in the North Main Streetscape but has not received any replies. Members agreed that any new grants should include the statement that any tree/shrub planting be done by a tree expert.

An additional tree has been purchased through our Memorial Tree Program bringing the total to three.

**STC Volunteer Hours** Volunteer hours for November and December were 79.5.

**Public Participation** There was no public participation.

**Old Business**

The NJUCF Program Annual Accomplishment Report is due in February 15, 2021. Kathy will assist Suzanne with the report.

We decided to put aside work on our STC Website until we can meet in person.

Burn out of the existing grass in the new meadow area has not been successful. The area will be tilled 4 inches deep and seeded in the spring.

### **New Business**

Lisa put together a spreadsheet of ground covers to be used in Allentown parks and street gardens from the suggestions submitted by members. The plant material can be native and non-native.

Borough Council has asked STC and the Environmental Commission for recommendations for a new ordinance to deal with invasive plants like Bamboo or English Ivy. After reading ordinances from other NJ towns and much discussion we decided that a new ordinance should include a description of what makes a plant invasive, what type of damage is a problem and who should deal with controlling the invasive plant. Terry will write up a sample ordinance, Bob will give it a legal review. STC members will review it at the January meeting.

Terry asked for someone to be his back up for assessing hazardous trees. Suzanne volunteered and will attend a training session when one is available.

2021 STC meeting dates – Jan 28, 2021, Feb 25, 2021, Mar 25, 2021, Apr 22, 2021, May 27, 2021, Jun 24, 2021, Jul 22, 2021, Aug 26, 2021, Sep 23, 2021, Oct 28, 2021, Nov 18, 2021, Dec 16, 2021 and Jan 27, 2022 were approved by a voice vote. Suzanne will send them to Laurie to be posted on the Allentown website.

**Adjournment** Terry adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.