

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2016**

Present: Sara Malone-Chair, Chris Williams, Arnold Schmidt, Robert Hudak, Carl Hauck, Carol Parker-Vice Chair

Excused: Jason Harkins

Meeting called to order at 07:02 p.m.

Secretary's Report -No minutes to review

Treasurer's report – No change

First opening to the public – No public present

Chairperson Sara Malone suggested that we rearrange the agenda to accommodate our guest, Dominick Pensabene, CME Associates, consultant for the Township on the Hamilton Street redevelopment. All agreed.

D. Penasabene explained that his firm was hired by Franklin Township to work on the Hamilton Street redevelopment plan regarding the master plan for removing and planting trees from Franklin Blvd. to Hawthorne Drive (approximately 1.2 linear miles). Depending on the need for removal of existing trees and the spacing of replacement trees, this project could involve planting of from 100 to 200 trees.

D. Penasabene is in the early stages of the project and would like the assistance of the STC in the selection and placement of trees. He will plan to come back to our meeting and give us more detail.

Old Business:

1. Shade Tree Commission Open Positions – No new information.
2. CFMP – Hazardous Tree ID Project – No new information.
3. CFMP – Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant Application – submitted but no update at this time.
4. Green Team and i-Tree Canopy – No new information.
5. Jeff Baumley Service Recognition – Next step—send to the Township Clerk and she will let us know when it will take place so we can attend. C. Williams will check on J. Baumley's availability to attend.
6. Proposed Tree Plantings
 - a. Franklin Township High School – September 11 – No new information
 - b. Hamilton Street Redevelopment – presentation/discussion (moved to top of agenda)
 - c. PSE&G Scenic Byway & Causeway Revegetation update
 - d. Middlebush Park status update report – Carl reported partial order received.

7. Tree Planting and Maintenance Updates
 - a. JFK Boulevard Tree Replacement Program – No new information.
 - b. Memorial Forest – Arbor Day Planting – Chair thanked C. Hauck and his employees for planting.
 - c. Hazard Trees – S. Malone is writing letter to county regarding trees near Stage House.

8. Emerald Ash Borer – Chair said that as the STC, we need to provide information to the township. (1) what is it? (2) what it looks like and (3) township will not be taking any action. Sara would like two people besides her to look at what information is out there and pull it together. No volunteers—tabled for next meeting.

9. Public Inquiries
 - a. YingHua International School – student project. Discussion took place regarding the student’s project where he wanted to care for 75 white pine trees and then donate them to the township to be planted. C. Hauck stated that the trees would need to be 2.5 caliper which would be unrealistic for the students to grow in a short period of time. It would be best if they planted them on their property. Discussion also concerned the choice of white pine and the STC members preferred a red bud or other shade tree appropriate for our area.

 - b. 29 Hasbrouck Drive, FP – ginkos – Discussion determined that the trees are not township trees. Response will be sent to owner providing the owner with that information and information regarding an appropriate replacement tree.

New Business:

1. Second opening of the Meeting to the Public-no public present
2. Franklin Days – September 2016
3. Tree Sale & Arbor Day – April 2017

Adjournment:

Schmidt moved to adjourn, C. Williams 2nd, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectively Submitted,

Carol J. Parker, Vice-Chair