

**Princeton Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes of September 22, 2020  
Monument Hall--East Conference Room  
Virtual Meeting  
1 Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540**

**Members**

**Voting:**

Sharon Ainsworth  
Victoria Airgood  
Welmoet Bok van Kammen  
Patricia Frawley  
Lily Krauss  
Alexandra Radbil  
Janet Stern

**Non-Voting:**

Sandra Chen: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
Ray Devoe: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

**Council Liaison**

Michelle Lambros

**Town Arborist:**

Taylor Sapudar

**Guests:** None

The regular meeting of the PSTC was called to order via Zoom on 9/22/2020 at 5:00 pm by Ainsworth.

**Opening Statement:** Read by Ainsworth.

**Roll Call:** Radbil, Stern, Devoe, Frawley, Chen, Ainsworth, Airgood, Sapudar, Krauss, Bok van Kammen, Lambros.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June, 23, 2020, meeting were approved with correction by a motion made by Radbil and seconded.

Ayes: Bok van Kammen, Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Airgood, Ainsworth, Krauss.

**Motion carried.**

## REPORTS

### **1. Arborist Report**

--Currently, twelve trees are being removed. All are oaks with BLS or in decline. Two contracts were awarded. The crane contract was awarded to Justin's Tree Service. Fall planting is currently under attorney review. Ninety-five trees are under consideration between the ash contract and fall planting.

--Princeton is under contract to redo the municipal website, which will be designed to be more user-friendly. Department heads will be responsible for the uploading of content, with Sapudar working directly with the STC when content is needed. Responsibility for updating and maintaining the website was changed in order to streamline the uploading of content. The tabs on the Princeton STC site, chosen by the arborist, will be the following:

- What Residents Want to Know about Their Trees (the pdf Stern created)
- Advisory Statement from the STC (just rewritten by Stern--to be redone in the near future?)
- The CFMP
- Do not plant list
- EAB info
- SLF info
- Tree removal permits
- Shade Tree Ordinance
- Lists of recommended trees to plant
- Leaf and brush schedule
- Deer-resistant landscaping
- Mulch volcano flyer (from Devoe)
- Commemorative Tree Planting Protocol

Many changes to the website were accomplished over the summer:

Revised municipal inventory guidelines are now on the website, in addition to what the STC does.

The FAQs have been rewritten, reorganized, and refreshed, with some deletions and additions. Much else has been fixed by Stern, who also edited and pared down "Caring for Your Trees."

Sapudar is waiting for approval of the Commemorative Tree Planting protocol.

Questions arose quickly about the new site, focusing on who is in charge of it--the STC, as before, or the DPW. The STC page was described as now only an arm of the DPW. Discussion addressed the fact that the commission is not part of the DPW but one of the commissions of the town; it was established by New Jersey State statute, and thus it should not be nested under the DPW, according to Airgood.

Lambros indicated that all the Boards and Commissions should have their own selected tabs.

Stern asked who decides what goes on the new STC site (e.g., Leaf and Brush schedule is now there) and what goes on the DPW site. Bok van Kammen questioned who controls the content of the website. Lambros responded that the municipal employee who works with the commission builds the content of the page feeding in the info that is needed.

Ainsworth indicated that we will continue working to determine what goes on the website. We as the STC will have a voice in what goes on the website.

--Specific questions were asked about locations that were experiencing challenge, including a large takedown of trees on Tyson Lane, noted by Airgood.

--Airgood asked about the status of the tree survey, which is being discussed with the Town Attorney. Radbil asked what street trees have been lost from a recent storm and what the plan is for replacement. Sapudar indicated that most of the trees were on private property.

--Returning to a previous announcement, the STC only reviews plans when requests for tree removal relate to street trees. It gets involved in private trees only if neighbors or others wish to air concerns at an STC meeting about a private property.

--Finally, the CSIP tree planting passed first inspection.

Sapudar announced that he and his wife are expecting a baby at the end of October. Congratulations were offered.

## **2. Council Liaison Report**

--Lambros had nothing to offer that could top Sapudar's announcement. Lambros congratulated the STC on the tree removal ordinance, which has been approved by Council. She also thanked Ainsworth for taking the lead on responding to the Vegetative Management bill (S434). A major step forward is the opportunity to amend the municipality response to tree removal in

the ROW. Ainsworth indicated that we have been involved with the bill for many years.

--Princeton is now going through a series of conversations on opening restaurants. There is a grant from the state to reimagine Witherspoon from Nassau Street through Green Street, with concern for businesses throughout the district.

--There is also ongoing conversation with Sapudar about stormwater management and the rain garden at the new EMT site, with the town working with Sapudar to resolve issues.

--Summer was busy, with affordable housing ordinances and other issues under discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Preliminary/Final Major Site Plan Review (Krauss)**

#### **Faculty Road at FitzRandolph Road--Soccer Stadium and Practice Field**

Everything is now virtual, which makes much of what is sent out much more difficult to use. Krauss will now get paper plans, which makes the process more viable.

Krauss has received no planting or landscaping plans, respectively, for the Senior Housing site and Avalon Bay, which are soon coming before the Planning Board. The Academy of the Sacred Heart plans are also under consideration, but Krauss was not informed in time to do and submit a report by the deadline.

The University is exceeding the number of trees needed to be planted, with increased tree planting described as incredible, according to Krauss. Sapudar agreed.

### **2. Preliminary/Final Major Site Plan Review (Krauss)**

#### **FitzRandolph and Faculty Roads--TIGER and Athletic Operations (see above)**

Ainsworth asked for comments on both projects. Bok van Kammen asked what plans were available. Senior Housing and Avalon Bay will be accessed soon. Bok van Kammen asked if there was a way to see the plans, which Krauss indicated was quite difficult electronically. Airgood asked if it was possible to send comments about the Senior Housing and Avalon Bay projects. There is not a deadline date yet for either project. Krauss stated the Senior Housing is being built

in open space. The planting project is enormous and includes rain gardens and stormwater management. Avalon Bay has just been received.

Airgood stated that Krauss appears comfortable with all the plans to date and asked if there was a way for us to understand what is happening in all projects.

Krauss is trying to give the STC the reference points for all the projects to aid in understanding the scope of each.

Ainsworth suggested alternative plans to aid in informing the STC of the scope of the projects.

Again, no deadlines have been assigned for these projects.

### **3. Vegetative Management Bill (Ainsworth)**

The analysis by Ainsworth has been forwarded to STC. The bill is moving through committees at present and will take some time to be voted on, with legal questions to come about the amendments moderating the impact of the bill.

### **4. New Princeton Website (Sapudar).** See Arborist Report, above.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Shade Tree Trust Reserve Fund (Lambros)**

Airgood had a question regarding the procedure now in place for using the STTR Fund. The process is that the application is processed by the STC, and, before the money is allocated, the town administrator reviews the request. He or she may decide that the Town Council will also have to review some of the requests. Thus, the commission is step one, followed by the named sequence. The current balance is \$41,805, and the STC should determine how the money could be allocated. We should look at potential projects or proposals. Stern wondered how the fund is to be publicized.

Should there be an article in the paper or through municipal offices? Perhaps the Mayor's email might be used, with the caveat that the funds are not to be used for private trees or lands. We as the commission can make recommendations also. Lambros wondered if there were any projects that need to be replanted. There is any number of smaller parks that could be considered, according to Ainsworth. Sapudar indicated that block planting appears to be the most impactful for neighbors and thus advises concentrating on one area. Ainsworth indicated that members of the STC should consider needs throughout the town to develop a plan for implementation.

Chen stated that some of the larger parks may have needs that could also be addressed. Devoe asked if the STTR Fund was just for planting or if educational ideas could also be considered.

2. **Commemorative Tree Planting Protocol (Radbil)**. The project is still not functional, complicated as it is by the plaque portion. Lambros will check with the Historical Commission to see if the members have resolved the plaque parameters yet.
3. **Mulch Volcano Door Hangers (Devoe)**. The door hangers arrived and were picked up by Stern for distribution. At this time there is no point in putting them in the municipal buildings, which are closed. With Covid, this is also not a good time to put them on house doorknobs, so Stern has been hanging them on the branches of impacted trees. She offered to deliver door hangers to STC members who would like to place them accordingly.
4. **Volunteer Hours (Ainsworth)**. We have accumulated approximately 500 hours to date. Sapudar and Radbil have been accessing CEUs. Core training is being done by Radbil. The STC Federation Conference is being held virtually but still has CEUs available.

Stern reminded all that the new Tree Protection Zone ordinance should go on the website. Airgood asked that the TPZ be circulated. Stern added that when Krauss writes the STC site reports, she should include the TPZ directions—or a brief summary of them—in template form on each report, reminding developers that they have to be adhered to. It should also be on all tree removal permits that are being issued. Sapudar indicated that the ordinance can be difficult to interpret, so an easy-to-understand version with diagrams would be helpful on the website. Airgood said she would work on this.

**OTHER:** None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn was made by Airgood and seconded.

Ayes: Krauss, Bok van Kammen, Stern, Frawley, Ainsworth, Airgood.

**Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

## Addendum: Action Plan

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Commemorative Tree Planting Protocol	October STC meeting	Lambros/Radbil
Vegetative Management Bill Update	October STC Meeting	Ainsworth
Website Update and Addition of TPZ to Website	October STC Meeting	Sapudar/Lambros,Airgood
Review of STTR Fund to propose allocations	Ongoing	STC Members