

**Princeton Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes of February 22,2022  
Virtual Meeting/Zoom**

**Voting:**

Sharon Ainsworth  
Victoria Airgood  
Ray Devoe  
Patricia Frawley  
Lily Krauss  
Alexandra Radbil  
Janet Stern

**Non-Voting:**

Sandra Chen: 1st Alternate  
Radhika Pola: 2ndAlternate

**Council Liaison:**

Mayor Mark Freda

**Town Arborist:**

Taylor Sapudar

**Guests** E. Monser, M.Trucelli

The regular meeting of the PSTC was called to order on 2/22/22 at 5:00 pm by Ainsworth.

**Opening Statement:** Read by Ainsworth.

**Roll Call:** Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Sapudar, Krauss, Ainsworth, Airgood, Devoe, Freda.

**Public Comment:** Erica Mosner, Princeton Community Village resident, introduced herself and thanked the STC for giving her the opportunity to speak. She wished to address the new construction at the Village. Mosner showed photos of the area in question prior to construction and described the ensuing loss of habitat and trees. Mosner indicated that although she had served on the Resident Advisory Panel that had reviewed the construction in advance, she had not understood the impact the construction would have. Airgood stated that this project, and the Harrison-Terhune project also under consideration, are not subject to Princeton's tree ordinance. She indicated that we need to have a voice in this type of construction. Krauss stated that because the construction at the Village is an

extension of the existing Village, and not a new development, an accurate number of trees to be demolished had not been furnished. Stern noted that the Village is in an AH-4 (Affordable Housing) Zone, and under the Princeton Code AH-4 housing some rules are waived for such housing. After extensive discussion the STC members present concluded that they did not know the rules related to this type of development. Mayor Freda noted there are differences between the two projects such as extensions to existing buildings. Edward Truscelli, Executive Director of Princeton Community Housing (PCH), acknowledged the dramatic change that the loss of trees has caused. However he felt that PCH's Board of Directors had done everything it could to make Village residents aware of what was happening prior to construction and the benefits for the PCH resident.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 1/25/22 meeting were approved with correction by a motion made by Airgood and seconded

**Ayes:** Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Krauss. Devoe, Airgood, Ainsworth.

**Motion carried.**

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Arborist Report**

- Witherspoon tree removal will begin in March. There will be community outreach and information provided prior to removal.
- Seedlings made available under the New Jersey Forest Service's Tree Recovery Campaign have been ordered for distribution at Porchfest on April 24, 2022 from 12-6 pm.
- Seedlings for distribution to third graders on Arbor Day have also been ordered. The first Arbor Day presentation will be at Littlebrook School on April 8, 2022. Scheduling for other schools is underway.
- The Tree of the Month for February was the Bald Cypress. Thanks to Pat.
- The Tree of the Month for March will be the Eastern Redbud. Thanks to Sandra.
- Bartlett Tree Experts continue their donated efforts with EAB treatment to the ash tree behind the Princeton War Memorial at the intersection of Mercer and Nassau Streets.
- The PSC's First Community Outreach will be March 19th regarding the Witherspoon Jackson neighborhood. Topics to be addressed include tree planting, pruning, utilities and trees, municipal policies, FAQs and benefits of trees.

- Marquand Park mulch contract was won by VJ Landscaping. They have started edging beds and cleaning up the area. Mulching will be started in the near future. `
- The spring planting RFP has been posted with 84 trees proposed for planting.
- Three Commemorative Plaques have arrived and will be picked up within the week. Sapudar will be in touch with the donors and have the plaques installed when appropriate.
- Princeton has reapplied for Tree City USA status.
- Princeton's 2021 accomplishment report has been submitted to the State Urban and Community Forestry Program.
- Sapudar addressed the idea of a community outreach program similar to the Tree of the Month. Frawley shared an infographic explaining the benefits of trees. Sapudar suggested a possible infographic series, discussing a different topic each month, to be featured on the website or in the Mayor's newsletter. Devoe asked if we could have a poster contest. Ainsworth indicated that education is a goal of the **Princeton Shade Tree Trust Reserve** and could be used to support such projects.
- Ainsworth asked if 500 tree seedlings had been ordered from the New Jersey Forest Service for distribution at Porchfest and Sapudar indicated that was the number ordered.

## 2. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Freda indicated that he will investigate tree ordinance applicability in relation to Affordable Housing projects.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. **Site Plan Review**

#### **Terhune Development Urban Renewal**

#### **Preliminary /Final Major Site Plan**

#### **North Harrison Street and Terhune Road**

Ainsworth noted this project is in a redevelopment zone with a smaller percentage of affordable housing requirements than the Princeton Community Village project on Bunn Drive. Both Ainsworth and Krauss have reviewed the plans for the Terhune development, of which 20 percent of the units will be affordable housing. Ainsworth pointed out the extensive loss of trees of significant size on the property. While there is an acknowledged

need for affordable housing, there is also a need for tree canopy and species diversity. The plan calls for removal of 346 of the 399 trees onsite. The proposal calls for planting 197 trees; the ordinance requirement is 374 replacement trees. Krauss noted her dismay at the number of trees proposed for removal and the planting allees of same-species trees. Stern said tree removal should not be the final thought in building projects and that it is the municipality's job to protect the environment. PEC has also expressed a lack of support for the project's proposed landscape plan and suggested relocating the parking. Airgood asked about the town's final development decision.

Mayor Freda sketched out the process of development approval. The planning board still has some leeway and can still put conditions on the developer as the final conditions have not yet been set. He suggested that STC clearly state its views and recommendations on the plans. Airgood suggested that there could be opportunity to influence the impact on habitat and trees. After significant discussion, it was agreed that the letter should be strongly worded in rejection of the plan. Stern urged that the PEC report be cited as part of the response.

## **2. 2022 STC Goals –(Ainsworth)**

The sub-committee to prepare for the CFMP will be Chen and Airgood. Their work will commence in the fall.

## **3. Shade Tree Trust Reserve Access- (Ainsworth)**

Ainsworth indicated that the Fund has \$30,598 at present and reviewed the methods to access the funds and the approved uses.

## **4. Seedlings Distribution/Porchfest-(Ainsworth)**

Ainsworth stated that we will have 500 seedlings to distribute at Porchfest and that we could consider using the Barbara Boggs Sigmund Park as a venue for distributing the seedlings. Possibly a child-based activity might be included. Radbil suggested using Mary Moss Park as an alternative.

## **5. Johnson Trolley Line Trail Meeting with Historic Preservation Review Committee, February 7,2022-(Chen/Sapudar/Stern)**

Stern reported that she, Chen and Sapudar appeared before the Historic Preservation Commission which was thrilled with what is proposed. Stern and Chen visited a resident on Elm Court who had ridden the trolleys. A letter of support has been received from Johnson Park school. The HP Commission has offered their

support. The grant Sapudar has applied for will be awarded this summer. Stern asked if funds from the Shade Tree Trust Reserve could be used for signage.

**6. Environmental Justice Meeting with Witherspoon-Jackson Residents,  
February 10,2022-(Radbil/Sapudar/Stern)**

Stern described a meeting with the WJ Residents. The first thing the STC members asked if the resident knew they could request trees planted in the municipal right of way. The residents indicated they did not. As a result there will be a meeting in March with the WJ residents at the Arts Council to explore information about trees. Stern asked Sapudar when the Bradford Callery Pear trees would come down. He indicated that would occur in late March. Radbil reported further on the residents' dearth of information about the STC and community actions.

**Members at Large Proposal-(Radbil)**

Radbil reported on her proposal whereby retired STC members or interested community persons could assist the STC in areas such as grant writing or fund-raising. Radbil cited the work of Marquand Park as an example of potential endeavors. Airgood affirmed Radbil's proposal that would tap into local talent. Stern also supported the idea despite the concern that initiating the project would require a great deal of work. Mayor Freda agreed that the idea is a possibility but a change in ordinance would be needed. Ainsworth indicated that, while she liked the idea, the need to manage the group would be difficult Mayor Freda noted that only a handful of residents responded to another request for volunteers. Radbil sketched out varied possibilities for this concept.

**7. Members List 2022 (Final)(Ainsworth)**

Ainsworth indicated that the list has now been updated and will be sent out soon.

( Airgood left at 650)

**OTHER**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Devoe and seconded.

**Ayes:** Devoe, Ainsworth, Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Kraus

**Motion Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

**Addendum: Action Plan**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
STC Review of Plans for Witherspoon St Project	Ongoing	Sapudar and subcommittee
Prepare for CFMP renewal	September 2022	Airgood/Chen
Johnson Park Walking Path	Ongoing	Sapudar/Ainsworth/Airgood/Krauss
Member at large proposal	March STC meeting	Radbil
Articles for newspaper	Ongoing	Stern/Airgood/Krauss
EJ plantings	Ongoing	Sapudar//Stern/Radbil
STC email contact	Ongoing	Devoe
Clarify ordinance applicability	March	Freda/Ainsworth
Nassau St replanting update	Ongoing	Sapudar