

Princeton Shade Tree Commission

May 23, 2023

Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference

Members (voting)

Sharon Ainsworth, Chair

Lily Krauss, Vice Chair

Victoria Airgood

Sandra Chen

Raymond Devoe

Patricia Frawley

Janet Stern

Non-Voting

Radhika Pola-1st Alternate

Council Liaison, Mayor Mark Freda

Arborist: Taylor Sapudar

Guests: T. Sands, J. Purcell

OPENING STATEMENT: read by Ainsworth

The regular meeting of the STC was called to order at 5 p.m. on May 23, 2023, by Ainsworth.

ROLL CALL: Krauss, Sapudar, Ainsworth, Devoe, Frawley, Chen, Airgood.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

MINUTES– The minutes of the April 2023 meeting were approved as read by a motion made by Krauss and seconded.

Ayes: Krauss, Devoe, Chen, Frawley, Airgood, Ainsworth

Motion carried

REPORTS: Arborist Report

-The Infographic for May focused on trees and carbon sequestration with assistance from Chen.

-Sapudar noted that he has received many calls about the condition of sycamores. This has been a bad disease year for many trees including cherries, crabapples and dogwoods due to two weeks of cold, wet weather at the time of bud break.

-The TOTM for May is the crabapple with June focusing on the American Smoketree.

-The municipal street tree inventory is live. A memo announcing this news has been sent to the firm that works on the mayor's newsletter in addition to posting it on the municipal website and in the municipal lobby.

-The spring street tree planting is complete. The fall planting is filling up with 100 trees expected to be planted.

- Tree City USA status has been awarded to Princeton for the 27th years. The stickers have been received and hung.
- Still waiting to hear back about the CFMP annual report.
- The Third-Grade presentations were well received.
- There are no pending grant applications.
- The ash tree injection contract was won by Princeton Tree Care with work beginning in June on Vandeventer, Mercer Street, Harrison Street Park and Marquand Park. The combined total DBH is 1468 inches with 57 trees treated.
- Witherspoon Street trees have been planted with most of Phase I complete.
- The Princeton Shade Tree Trust received a donation of five hundred dollars in addition to a request for an American Elm with plaque to be planted at the Harrison Street Park.
- Several requests for additional trees were received after Porchfest.
- Marquand Park had a new kiosk installed based on a donation from a deceased member.
- Currently yellowwoods are in bloom and can be found along the Mountain Ave. path.

(Freda joined the meeting at 5:25)

NEW BUSINESS– Guest Tammy Sands

– 1. Microforest Project – (Ainsworth/Guest T. Sands)

Sands described a microforest as a complex eco system with a minimum size of 144 square meters. Microforests do not require a lot of land with all materials planted at once.

The benefits to the environment are abundant. The first proposed project will be developed with the public schools. A primary site is near the middle school where the 7th graders will be involved. A grant from the Trees for Schools project is being used to begin work. Chen was thanked for her interest and support.

Chen noted that microforest projects are not that common in the U.S. with Princeton in the forefront of this idea. It was agreed that Ainsworth would reach out to Sands to find out how the STC could lend support.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Public Education-(Ainsworth)

The cost to print and mail a brochure to the public on the benefit of trees is estimated to be about five thousand dollars. This estimate is based on data provided by Freda on the cost for the recent brush and leaf brochure sent to residents.

2. Revisit-Zoom versus in person Meetings-(Ainsworth)

Motion: by Devoe and seconded to continue Zoom for the summer and revisit the matter in October.

Ayes: Chen, Devoe, Ainsworth, Airgood, Krauss, Frawley.

Motion carried.

3. Status of Bill to Ban Sale of Invasive Species-(Chen)

Chen reported that the bill that would ban the sale, distribution, or propagation of invasive plant species (S2186/A3677) continues to move forward in the state legislature. She explained that the bill is expected to follow a somewhat zigzag path through the Senate and Assembly. The Senate Environment and Energy Committee approved their version of the

bill in December. Then, on Thursday, May 18, the Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee approved a revised version of the bill that incorporated changes recommended by a joint workgroup comprised of members of the NJ Forest Task Force and representatives of the nursery industry. The Assembly committee's version of the bill is posted for a final vote in the full Assembly on May 25. If the Assembly approves the bill, it will be sent to the Senate. It is anticipated that the Senate would replace the version of the bill that the Senate Environment and Energy Committee approved in December with the Assembly version and, possibly, insert a few more revisions recommended by the joint workgroup. That version would then be taken up by the full Senate. It is possible, but not certain, that this consideration by both the Assembly and the Senate could be completed before the end of June.

4. Ordering Small Tree Species from Pinelands Nursery-(Chen)

Chen reported on the effort to obtain tubelings of smaller tree species from Pinelands Nursery for distribution at the 2024 Porch Fest. She thanked Sapudor for obtaining a list from the Pinelands Nursery. Pinelands had also explained that it offers over a 50% discount to purchasers who buy four flats or more of the same species. Prior to the meeting Ainsworth had circulated an email to members recommending that Princeton order four flats of redbud and 4 flats of sweetbay magnolia. This would provide 574 seedlings for the STC to distribute at a cost of \$686 plus tax. Sapudor agreed to place the order in September.

Motion to authorize Sapudor to place an order with Pinelands Nursery for redbud and sweetbay magnolia seedlings made by Devoe and seconded.

Ayes: Devoe, Chen, Ainsworth, Airgood, Frawley, Krauss.

Motion Carried.

OTHER: Airgood said the trust fund could be used to help with the microforest project as the kind of support we could provide. Ainsworth stated that she would contact Sands to learn more about the project needs.

- Devoe noted that he and the science teacher at Riverside are designing a sustainable playground. Devoe thanked Sapudor for his help in providing input on the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

– A motion to adjourn was made by Devoe and seconded.

Ayes: Chen, Devoe, Krauss, Ainsworth, Airgood, Frawley

Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm

ACTION	TIME	• RESPONSIBILITY
STC Review of Plans for Witherspoon St Project	Ongoing	Sapudar and subcommittee
Ordinance Revision	Ongoing	STC
Prepare for CFMP renewal	Ongoing	Airgood/Chen
Articles for newspaper	Ongoing	Stern/Airgood/Krauss
Nassau St Replanting	Ongoing	Sapudar

Addendum: Action Plan