

**Princeton Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes of May 25, 2021  
Virtual Meeting: Zoom Conference**

**Members**

**Voting:**

Sharon Ainsworth  
Victoria Airgood  
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 on 5/25/21 at 5:02 pm by Ainsworth.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

Opening statement read by Ainsworth.

**ROLL CALL:** Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Chen, Ainsworth, DevoeLambros, Airgood, Sapudar

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the April 27, 2021, meeting were approved with correction by a motion made by Stern and seconded.

Ayes: Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Airgood, Ainsworth

**Motion carried.**

**REPORTS**

## 1. Arborist Report

- There will be a fall planting project of ~70 trees. Sapudar asked if there were any locations of note to address.
- The Ash injection contract was awarded to Wells Tree & Landscape, who will be injecting approximately 40 Ash trees this month. All residents have been notified, with the volume of trees to be injected on Mercer and Vandeventer.
- The Johnson Park walking path subcommittee should meet soon.
- Cicadas are out but little damage has been noted.
- Spotted lanternfly nymphs have hatched.
- The document on English Ivy is ready for review, with Radbil suggesting one change.
- The Davey Tree Inventory, RFQ, as per Princeton's CFO and its budget committee, cannot be posted in 2021. Lambros said the budget has been pared down, because millions of dollars of revenue have been lost from various sources, and the town does not want to raise taxes. Hopefully, the inventory can go ahead next year.
- Radbil has worked hard with members of the community who wish to plant commemorative trees. There are three waiting to do so. One resident will donate a grove of trees to the Harrison St. Park. Sapudar will meet with the donor.
- Sapudar is teaching a well-received class at Princeton Adult School on plant and tree ID. Radbil suggested that Ainsworth be invited next time to talk about donating trees.
- Sapudar has reached out to the State in regard to the CSIP contract. He will meet with the DEP forester on site to assess tree health. In spring 2022, the municipality will be able to receive thirty thousand dollars from the State if all trees are in good health.
- Sapudar would like to explore ways to incentivize tree planting on private property. Trees in decline or those that pose a threat due to their condition are removed but are not always replaced. He would like to explore ways to promote tree planting throughout the town.

## 2. Council Liaison Report

- Lambros stated that Mayor Freda would like to speak at the dedication of the Barbara Boggs Sigmund Park. Ainsworth updated the PSTC on all the work in the park and the efforts of Sapudar to make the park a welcoming place. Replanting on the project was done last week by the town crew and Master Gardeners of Mercer County--a great effort. The dedication will take place on May 29, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. This date marks exactly thirty years since the park was originally dedicated.
- Chen stated that Ainsworth and Sapudar should be commended for all the work that has been done to renovate the park.
- The set of forestry management bills is not moving forward at this time.  
(Krauss entered the meeting at 5:25 pm.)

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Planning Board Site Plan

**Trustees of Princeton University**  
**91 and 110-116 Prospect Avenue; Block 50.01, Lot 18**  
**Minor Site Plan with Variance**  
**File No. P2121-012PMP (Krauss)**

Krauss reviewed the site improvements including storm water management. Twelve trees are being removed and 26 trees will be planted. Stern questioned why the large trees are being removed. Stern asked if Krauss was satisfied with the overall adjustments. Krauss said that so many more trees are being planted and rain gardens established that it will be a nice balance. And 18 trees were saved. Krauss commented on the many good factors involved in this adjustment.

Stern will edit the letter prior to sending.

(Lambros left the meeting at 6:11 pm.)

**Motion** made by Airgood and seconded to accept the PSTC response with corrections.

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

**Motion carried.**

**2. 2021 NJUCF Stewardship Grant (Radbil/Chen)**

Chen began the discussion by asking if we were eligible to apply for this grant. These are generous funds that are being offered. Sapudar stated that we have one open grant, which is for the Johnson Park walking path.

Sapudar will be applying for this and will know more details shortly. Information sessions will be held Friday, June 11, 2021 at 12:00 pm [NJUCF CEU for those who attend the webinar live—JS] to lay out the parameters. The grants are for 50K for the inventory or 150,000K for tree planting; in either case, the municipality must come up with a 25% match. Ainsworth asked if Sapudar will be attending the information session and offered help. Lambros had indicated that State funding would be helpful for the inventory. Chen said the prudent thing would be to apply for money for the inventory.

**3. Negative Effects of English Ivy (Sapudar)**

Sapudar addressed the issue, thanked Frawley for her help, and asked members to review the document. Sapudar would like to put this on the website. He has had several calls regarding this issue. Airgood stated that it might be a good idea to publicize this beyond the website, since there was some substantial misinformation about ivy growth. Radbil suggested that a PSA could be produced and distributed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Commemorative Tree Program (Radbil)**

A significant number of changes were recommended, with Radbil and Stern to review and revise. Radbil suggested that, after all changes were incorporated, having the donor of the proposed grove of trees for Harrison St. Park walk through the procedures delineated in the documents would be productive to determine if it all works as it's supposed to. Lamos introduced a new option which is to submit payment online.

## **2. PSTC Statutory Authority (Airgood/Chen)**

Discussion of this item related to material furnished to the PSTC by Airgood and Chen. Chen credited Airgood with providing information related to the basis of authority for the PSTC.

--On p. 2, Airgood and Chen describe the commission's responsibility for trees and shrubs in public places, including control over the ground surrounding trees and shrubs.

-- Discussion of ordinance provisions were clarified by Airgood. Change of language to address intent was reviewed.

--Chen then addressed the issue of whether sidewalk work that could interfere with or injure a tree on municipal land should be within the purview of the PSTC, as state law provides. Airgood suggested this might be an advisory capacity. Chen suggested that we might need a subcommittee to review the varied aspects of this issue. Krauss volunteered to call Engineering to see what the ramifications would be if the PSTC were to oversee and relay concerns related to sidewalks and their potential impact on trees.

--Chen introduced the issue of planting trees in rain gardens and the positive impact of trees within a rain garden.

--Stern and Ainsworth questioned wording on pages 3 and 4 of the document, specifically in regard to what "policy making" means when applied to ordinances and amendments. Stern also questioned whether the members of the PSTC think "recommends tree removal and tree protection standards" is too narrow. Perhaps "establishes"?

--Radbil questioned the fifth bullet regarding tree inventory and maintenance; should it be reworded to "recommends" rather than "develops and maintains"?

--Chen will make adjustments to the documents to answer questions raised.

--Radbil added that at her Core training, the State was proposing to add changes that should be looked at in conjunction with the present document.

## **3. Environmental Justice and the Urban Forest in Princeton (Radbil/Stern)**

Stern reported that Radbil and Stern met with the staff member of the Princeton YMCA who oversees Princeton Young Achievers, a group of underserved students who meet every day after school at PCV. They have received the go-ahead to meet with the students once a month in the fall to introduce them to nature via observations, hikes, flora ID, etc. It is hoped that by working with the children, the PSTC can gradually get their parents involved in all sorts of nature activities at PCV, resulting in one component of EJ.

Stern asked whether it would be possible to bring personnel from Green Streets to do a presentation on the program. Ainsworth suggested having a summary of what the parameters would be for a speaker and for PSTC to participate.

## **4. ISPs for PSTC Member Email Addresses (Devoe)**

Further research will be done by Devoe. Radbil noted that for PSTC business it is best practice for members to use an email address different from their private email addresses.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn made by Stern and seconded.  
**Ayes:** Stern, Frawley, Radbil, Airgood, Ainsworth, Krauss.  
**Motion carried.**  
**Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.**

**ADDENDUM: ACTION PLAN**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Follow-up with Town for ISP for STC Members' Email Addresses	June STC meeting	Devoc/Ainsworth
STC Statutory Authority	June STC Meeting	Chen/Airgood
Making Contact with Green Streets	Future meeting	Chen
Environmental Justice, Minority Involvement, and PCV Project	Ongoing	Radbil/ Stern
Donation Funds: a) Changes and Editing to Be Finalized. b) Meeting with Donor of Tree Grove. c) Donor "Testing" of All Procedures to Determine Functionality	June STC Meeting	Radbil/Stern/Sapudar
Discussion with Engineering about Possible Ramifications of STC Oversight of Sidewalk Impact on municipal trees	June STC Meeting	Krauss
Johnson Park Walking Path Project	Ongoing	Sapudar/Ainsworth/ Krauss/Airgood

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