

**Princeton Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of July 26, 2022
Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference**

Members

Voting:

Sharon Ainsworth

Victoria Airgood

Raymond Devoe

Patricia Frawley

Lily Krauss

Alexandra Radbil

Janet Stern

Non-Voting:

Sandra Chen: 1st Alternate

Radhicka Pola: 2nd Alternate

Council Liaison:

Mayor Mark Freda

Town Arborist:

Taylor Sapudar

Guests: E. Mosner

The regular meeting of the PSTC was called to order on 7/26/22 at 5:02 pm by Ainsworth.

Opening Statement: Read by Ainsworth.

Roll Call: Stern, Devoe, Frawley, Airgood, Sapudar, Pola, Ainsworth.

Public Comment: Mosner was thanked for joining the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 28, 2022 meeting were approved with correction by a motion made by Stern and seconded.

Ayes: Stern, Frawley, Ainsworth, Devoe, Airgood

Motion carried.

REPORTS

1. Arborist Report

-Johnson Park Walking Path grant to be awarded soon.

-ARS Tree Service will be pruning trees for PSEG.

This work is mandated by the Board of Public Utilities.

-Mercer County DOT will remove dead ash trees on Rosedale Rd.

-A subcommittee of STC is needed to help narrow down the utility-friendly trees to be used on Witherspoon Street. A selection of 3 to 4 trees would be helpful. Trees that are columnar, narrow trees would be preferred. Ainsworth indicated that availability is an important consideration for tree planting (Symington joined the meeting, as did Mayor Freda)`

-infographic for August will be 'Young Tree Establishment'.

--The street tree inventory was approved, and Davey Resource Group will likely start work by the end of August/early September. Nineteen thousand sites will be inventoried with work to start after the results of the DEP Grant are awarded.

-The Tree of the Month for August is the Hop Hornbeam. September's tree will be the Willow oak with information furnished by Chen. October's tree will be the Kentucky Coffeetree.

-The tree removal contract bid was won by Princeton Tree Care. The firm will be removing 115 trees throughout town. Work will begin by mid-August,

-There is no news on the Fish and Wildlife Grant submitted for the Johnson Park Walking Trail.

--Sapudar is taking the lead on a line-of-sight street project. If any STC member notices a line-of-sight issue, reach out to him.

-Mercer County DOT will be removing dead ash trees along the Rosedale Road corridor within the next few weeks.

-Municipal Tree Crew removed a Callery pear tree that snapped under normal weather conditions and caused damage to a residence. The tree was the same DBH and in the same condition as the Callery pears that were removed from the Witherspoon Street corridor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planing Board Review:

Block 2004, Lot 52, CB

Applicant: CRX Associates, LLC.

Major Site Plan-Demolish and Constrict New Multi-Use Building

Ainsworth shared a draft response and reviewed relevant issues. Airgood noted there used to be street trees in that area and suggested that more information is needed on planned vegetation.

Ainsworth raised the idea of recommending container plantings in the public right-of-way where street trees are not feasible. This would be comparable to the Princeton University sponsored Crepe Myrtle planters temporarily located near Nassau St. Freda cautioned about planting containers given current fiscal considerations and maintenance costs. Stern asked about the green wall which would be constructed on the owners' property but is adjacent to the public sidewalk.

Ainsworth noted that new street trees are planned for the Witherspoon/Hulfish street intersection. Stern urged that we ask for more detail on what plant species are being proposed. Ainsworth agreed this should be added to the final document. Sapudar added that we call attention to the Do Not Plant list. Sapudar noted that the existing London Plan tree at the adjacent municipal pocket park will remain.

Motion to accept the letter with adjustment made by Stern and seconded.

Ayes-Stern, Airgood, Frawley, Devoe , Ainsworth

Motion carried.

2. Witherspoon Phase Two- Utility Wire Tree Selection-(Sapudar)

This phase is ongoing and STC members are encouraged to provide recommended tree species for consideration.

3. STC Volunteer Training-(Sapudar/Stern)

-Symington of Sustainable Princeton, who was present at the meeting, has offered the STC the use of 10 to 15 volunteers on Friday, September 16.

-Ainsworth had asked Sapudar prior to the meeting if he would be available to train volunteers on an agreed upon task. He has agreed. Radbil (prior to the public meeting) agreed to help train the volunteers and take on administrative tasks as required, such as obtaining names of volunteers and communicating with them as needed.

- Stern asked if any other members would be interested in helping, and if they had recommendations for projects. Sapudar discussed the Tree Tenders program, but for a one-day commitment, that approach might not work. Stern said that she and Radbil had devised a list of possible tasks that pairs of volunteers could undertake in different neighborhoods, e.g., identifying planting sites, trees that may be dangerous, in need of limbing up or other pruning, or that look stressed, as well as sidewalk problems caused by trees. Sapudar agreed that tasks like these could be undertaken. He proposed that he speak further with Symington to discuss how best to proceed.

OLD BUSINESS

1.Environmental Justice

Postponed until September.

2, Johnson Park Walking Path-(Ainsworth/Airgood/Krauss)

Note the topic was discussed during the arborist report.

3.Task Force on Stewardship of Public Forrest Lands-(Chen)

-Ainsworth reviewed Chen's proposed submission to Senator Smith's Task Force since she was unable to attend due to the Task Force's Zoom session was running concurrent with the STC meeting.

Motion: to support Chen's motion made by Stern and seconded.

Ayes-,Devoe, Airgood, Stern, Frawley, Ainsworth.

Motion carried with additional comments complimenting Chen's work.

OTHER

-Stern noted information provided in a webinar suggested trees be purchased from local sources. Sapудар said the street tree program uses locally grown trees. For specific projects, Sapудар goes to the nursery to tag the trees.

-Airgood asked about placement of a library book box in the public-right-of-way and adjacent to a street tree. Sapудар will investigate.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Devoe.

Ayes: Devoe, Stern, Airgood, Frawley, Ainsworth

Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33p.m.

o **Addendum: Action Plan**

ACTION	TIME	• RESPONSIBILITY`
STC Review of Plans for Witherspoon St Project	Ongoing	Sapудар and subcommittee
Prepare for CFMP renewal	Ongoing 2022	Airgood/Chen
Johnson Park Walking Path	Ongoing	Sapудар/Ainsworth/Airgood/Krauss
Member at Large proposal	Ongoing	• Radbil
Sen. Smith Task Force	Ongoing	Chen
Articles for newspaper	Ongoing	Stern/Airgood/Krauss
EJ plantings	Ongoing	Sapудар//Stern/Radbil
Nassau St Replanting	Ongoing	Sapудар