

Princeton Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of July. 27,2021
Virtual Meeting, Zoom Conference

Members

Voting:

Sharon Ainsworth

Victoria Airgood

Patricia Frawley

Lily Krauss

Alexandra Radbil

Janet Stern

Non-Voting:

Sandra Chen: 2nd Alternate

Ray Devoe: 1st Alternate

Council Liaison:

Michelle Lambros

Town Arborist:

Taylor Sapudar

Guests: None

The regular meeting of the PSTC was called to order on 7/27/21 at 5:02 pm by Ainsworth.

OPENING STATEMENT:

Read by Ainsworth

ROLL CALLR Radbil, Stern, Frawley, Chen, Airgood, Ainsworth ,Sapudar, Lambros.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 22,2021 meeting were approved with correction by a motion made by Chen and seconded.

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

Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Arborist Report

- Fall planting will be advertised next week.
- The Heatherstone planting project passed state inspection and the town will be receiving the full grant amount for \$29,900. Now that this earlier grant is closed out, Princeton is eligible to receive more grants from the state. More grant opportunities may be coming in the fall.
- July Tree of the month has been posted. Sapudar has developed a template for future postings and encourages STC members to participate in tree selection and write-up.
- Tree of the month for August is the yellowwood done by Frawley.
- September tree of the month is being done by Chen.
- Spotted Lantern fly adults have emerged.
- Cicada damage includes brown appearance on some tree tips resulting from the egg laying. The tree crew has started pruning out damage and exposing root flares of new trees when needed.
- The Landscape proposal for Witherspoon has been presented.
- Spring planting contract has started with Sapudar asking for suggestions for block planting.
- Commemorative tree recommendation is that the forms and donations be submitted online. Radbil said we should review parameters prior to finalizing documents. Forms are correct and can be added online.

Council Liaison Report

- Work is being done on the filling station. Screening much of the facade including along the Route 206 side. A rain garden will be part of the project.
- The Witherspoon redesign has been finalized. It is a one-way street design with a great amount of planting involved.
- The recommended changes to the handbook are under review and have been forwarded to appropriate personnel.
- Devoe is working on the ISP address proposal, but the town will not be able to provide support on this issue. Radbil indicated that it would be good to have a discussion regarding the matter. She noted that Gmail accounts are not secure and require monitoring with many factors complicating account management. Many issues are involved in the use of private emails for STC communication which need to be taken under consideration. Legitimate concerns need to be explored and not dismissed. Lambros indicated that she would ask the town administrator and legal counsel to attend the next meeting to discuss this matter. Ainsworth suggested that this be an agenda item for the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1.Environmental Justice: Patrial Survey of Street Tree Vacancies-(Radbil/Stern)

Stern indicated that this committee was responding to Sapudar's request for tree planting suggestions and offered that the gateway areas for planting was a good idea. Multiple benefits can be achieved through some of the block planting.

As for gateway planting, some of the roads are state roads which could complicate plantings. Sapudar has done some planting in this area before without complications. Stern asked if utilities should be informed prior to planting. Some of the streets on the list had ash trees and will be replaced. John Street needs trees but the sidewalks are an issue. Some of the areas need trees as noted by Radbil but the tight areas do not take understory trees well. It is difficult to plant natives in some of these areas. Stern noted that when natives don't work perhaps parking lot trees would be best for a hostile environment. Some pushback in neighborhoods exist. Chen noted that Sapudar has raised an issue that the younger the tree is when planted the more likely the tree will thrive. Every planting location should be evaluated for type and size of tree. Radbil recommended community involvement for more participation. Radbil noted that the inventory would aid in identifying locations for planting and size of trees that would benefit from planting.

-Radbil reported on the numbers of those who visit the Tree Inventory

-Chen noted that in the absence of the inventory it is difficult to identify block planting. Radbil commented that the census shows pockets of income which identifies lower economic neighborhoods. Sapudar plants trees where requests are made. Airgood asked if we could get information on block plantings .Sapudar has records that will lay out what has happened in terms of block planting. This will be an agenda item for September. Radbil noted that trees planted in the former borough were accompanied by a note to the homeowner identifying the kind of tree and tree care.

Radbil indicated that we should cancel the contract with Davey Tree /Support since we are not using the full service at this time.

(Krauss joined the meeting at 5: 48)

2.Witherspoon Streetscape-(Sapudar)

The list includes street trees with emphasis placed on tree species that are compatible with the proposed infrastructure. While it has been a challenge to reach consensus, the plan is to begin the project in January.

3. Noticing Letter to Newspapers-(Airgood/Stern)

Neighbor notification starts with the permit application. The revision has been put-on the permit application according to Stern. The next step is to publicize the issue. Stern has not written the letter in part due to the lack of interest during the summer. Publicity for this can be done in the fall in many venues. An article would be good for this purpose in addition to addressing the tree protection ordinance . Radbil suggested a series of articles making points about one item at a time. Lambros will reach out to

Ann Levin to address articles related to STC concerns. Stern and Airgood will begin the process.

OLD BUSINESS

1. STC Statutory Authority-(Airgood/Chen)

The document has been sent to the mayor for review. Chen stated that we should thank Lambros for working on this immediately. Chen reviewed the sidewalk issue involved in the planning process. The matter is still pending. Ainsworth extended thanks to Airgood and Chen for their thorough review and recommendations.

2. Commemorative Tree Program-Final Documents-(Sapudar)

Documents are being prepared for posting on the town website. Sapudar asked Radbil for a description for the web tabs associated with the program. He suggested that there be a form for a particular amount to enhance the process. Lambros suggested a minimum of \$25.

Stern suggested eliminating the Adopt an Ash tree fund and link to STC. Further, Stern urged that the STC Tree Fund form linked to the Ash Tree adoption tab should be eliminated and a new link to the PSTTR should be inserted in its place. Since the STC has no access to the website, tabs should be relevant to the task. Radbil reported that ten trees are being donated for a grove of trees in the Harrison St. Park along with the additional cost for a commemorative plaque. Sapudar will recommend placement and variety of trees to be planted once existing tree removals are completed.

(Lambros left at 6:25)

3. ISP's for STC Member Email Addresses-(Devoe) addressed earlier.

4. Johnson Park Walking Path Project- (Ainsworth/Airgood/Krauss/Sapudar)

bids are being advertised. Understory brush is being removed to frame the walking path. Chen asked if this is a good place to plant younger trees. Sapudar agreed and said that young understory trees are proposed. The goal is to frame the path from the street and have large shrubs and flowering trees included. Radbil suggested native witch-hazels particularly fall and spring blooming ones. Sapudar agreed.

5. Nassau Street Replanting Update-(Sapudar)

There is no change in the status. Airgood asked about the replanting. The expectation is that street trees will be planted where old trees were. Species have been proposed but not finalized. Sapudar asked that STC look at the list he previously submitted.

OTHER

ADJURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Airgood and seconded.

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

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6: 32.pm.

ADDENDUM: ACTION PLAN

ACTION	DUE DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Follow-up for ISPs for STC members' Email Addresses	September STC Meeting	Devoe/Radbil/Lambros
STC's Statutory Authority	September STC Meeting	Airgood/Chen/Lambros
Johnson Park Walking Path Project and Plant List for Review	Ongoing	Sapudar/Ainsworth/Krauss/Airgood
STC to Review Plans of What Is Proposed for Witherspoon St. Redesign	September STC meeting	Sapudar
Nassau St. Replanting Update	September STC meeting	Sapudar
PSTTR review to determine content and relevance	September STC meeting	Stern
	September STC meeting	Lambros/Stern/Airgood
Input from Municipality on STC Sidewalk Powers	September STC meeting	Ainsworth

