

**VERONA SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES FOR**

**May 13, 2019**

**MEETING STARTED:** 5:45 pm

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 6:45 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Coppa, Dubowsky, & Schwartz

**ALTERATIVES PRESENT:** n/a

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Jessica Pearson (Verona Environmental Commission) –  
Presentation on Proposed Garden at Grove Park

**APPROVING LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** April 8, 2019 - approved by Dubowsky  
& Schwartz

**BUDGET:** 2019 Maintenance Budget is \$125,000 (same as last year)

**CORRESPONDENCE:** n/a

**TREE WORK:**

REPAIRS & PRUNING – n/a

ANNUAL TREE CARE – n/a

REMOVALS – n/a

PLANTING – n/a

DPW – n/a

MEMBERS LIST – n/a

**PARKS & PUBLIC AREAS:** Grove Park & High School Ball Field / Walkway area  
(discussed below)

**OLD & NEW BUSINESS:**

**Street Tree Inventory** – RichView Consulting has completed approx. 75% of the 4,000  
trees in the inventory.

- We will be using \$10k from the Forestry Stewardship Grant we received
- Last survey was done in the 1990s, of which only 75% was done professionally
- 35 miles of Town Streets & 5 miles of County & State Roadways
- Consultant to provide data in Excel, as well as iTree Software Format

**Community Forestry Management Plan** – Our present management plan expired  
(2014-2018). I followed up with Brian McDonald from NJ DEP a few times to find out

what the status of the application was. I was notified by Pat Shapella (NJDEP Grant Administrator) today, 5/13/19, that we were awarded the Grant, and the package is on its way to us.

- Green Communities Grant is required to help pay consultant to develop new Management Plan = \$3k
- Coppa contacted the consultant John Linson, and his proposal from 2018 is still valid = \$6k to develop our new management plan.
  - I asked Consultant to provide us with a new proposed, dated for 2019
- I need to work with Steve Neale & Jennifer Kierman to get the consultant on board to start this work.
- I submitted the application for this Grant was submitted back in Feb 2019

**Alternate #2 Shade Tree Member** – Posting was released on social media seeking volunteers back on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

- Flyers seeking volunteers to be created and put out at the Community Center and store fronts throughout town (if allowed)

**Training** – A few members attended the presentation on “Proper Tree Planting” held by Jason Grabosky from Rutgers University on Wed, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

- I reached out to him last week to help me put together a specification on tree planting for us to use and have Caputo follow in tree plantings, especially for the new trees for the BOE at the high school.

**Board of Education** – Field meeting was held between Bob Prout & Giovanni Coppa together with BOE (Dr Rui Dioniso – Superintendent, Jay Aiello & Joe Higgins – BOE Facilities) on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, to discuss:

- Planting new trees along the path from the Grove Avenue parking lot to the fields along Grove Ave, as well as along Sampson Dr going from Grove Ave to the small building with bathrooms
  - The new trees will be located between the fence and BOE property, and not outside the fence area towards the curb line.
  - Agreed upon installing Red Maples & White Oaks, in an alternating sequence (school colors & trees will last for a very long time)
- We need the BOE plan drawings to help us locate where the drainage/sewer manholes & associated piping is located, so that the new trees can be properly located
  - The plan will be marked up with our proposed tree locations, and circulated for review and approval
  - At the time of construction, the actual locations of the proposed trees will be stacked out and labeled to make sure the right tree is planted in the right location
- We will need to go to the Town Board for Capital Funding to pay for this project

**Arbor Day** – the Proclamation for Arbor Day was made by the mayor at the Town Council Meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

- Pictures were taken for documentation for when we submit the application for Tree City USA for 2019
- Verona is currently been a Tree City USA recipient for the past 34 years in a row
- Statistics (as of 2017 Summary online):
  - Tree City USA program started in 1976
  - 3,554 Tree City USA towns

- NJ is in the top 5 of states with the most Tree Citi USA Communities
  - Verona is ranked #3 in NJ for number of years in a row
    - Paramus & Parsippany = 42 years (14 other communities in USA also with 42 years)
    - Verona = 34 years

**Grove Park Garden –**

- Map & list of plants being proposed to be planted for the new garden were provided by the Environmental Commission
- Shade Tree Commission is to provide the Environmental Commission comments, approval or denial on proposed garden at Grove Park.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: MONDAY, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 7:00 PM**