

Verona Shade Tree Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2021

Meeting Started: 5:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 5:55 PM

Members Present: R. Prout, T. Schwartz, V. Ryan

Council Liaison: C. McGrath

Others: M. Cavallo, M. DeCarlo, C. Molinaro

Public Present: None

Approving Last Month's Minutes: N/ A

Budget: Mr. Molinaro advises that the ST budget has remained at \$125,000. for the past 9 years; including pruning, removal & planting of new trees. With the work on record & the many requests coming in, the 2021 budget is spent.

Correspondence: none

Tree Work: Since the recent storm, Mr. Molinaro has been fielding 5-7 homeowner complaints per week. He has an extensive list for Caputo Bros. of over 10 pages. Caputo is caught up on stump removals (62).

ST members compiled a list of trees needing work that has to be cross referenced with DPW list.

Parks & Public Areas: n/a

Old & New Business: ST members agreed on current leadership for the group. Mr. Prout & Ms. . Schwartz will be co-chairs, Ms. Ryan will be recording and corresponding Secretary. Although the committee has not met since March, current members are committed to sustaining the mission of the Shade Tree Commission, in existence in Verona since 1952.

-The Town is focusing on health & safety issues first, concentrating on removal of dead trees. DPW handles issues with smaller trees.

-The Lynwood Drive reconstruction project was discussed. Mr. DeCarlo advised 27 trees were removed. 47 homes have requested new trees. They are looking for 1-2 species of small trees to be planted this fall for the street. ST will forward a proposed list to Mr. Molinaro.

-Future reconstruction projects on Ann, Cypress, Stevens & Willow Streets will require possibly 89 new trees. Mr. Cavallo will send a list of those trees to be removed. Windermere & Whitney areas scheduled for 2023.

-It was confirmed that Mr. Molinaro & DPW will continue to field public complaints but will start advising ST of the status of that work, perhaps monthly.

-Ms. McGrath stated that a yearly report indicating accomplishments, work performed, etc. would be helpful. Mr. Cavallo will check for programs that would be useful for the Town.

-the need for recruitment of new members was discussed. Township Facebook page could be utilized. Ms. McGrath started a working group within the Council for resident engagement, which could be helpful in the future.

-8 CEUs are still required for the group for 2021

-invoice for dues to NJ Shade Tree Commission given to Mr. Molinaro.