

SHADE TREE COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2024, 7:00 PM

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time, and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Commission. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings are posted at Borough Hall, was mailed to the Record and Star Ledger, and was filed with the Borough Clerk of Demarest.

The meeting was opened by Chairperson Linda Cetta at 7:02pm.

Present: Linda Cetta, Ronnie Friedman, Faye Sloan, Council Liaison Adam Collins

Absent: Edwin Hering, Maureen Neville, Norman NG

Approval of minutes for November 11, 2023, Ronnie Hartman 2nd Faye Sloan

Old Business: Shade Tree Trust Maureen Neville and Linda Cetta met with the CFO to discuss status of the trust fund and what the intentions of the trust funds will be used for. Trust Fund will be complete when State approval is received. Temporary budget for Shade Tree is 26.25% of \$33,000.00

New Business: Meeting dates for 2024 Approved for the exception of July 4, 2024, is now scheduled for July 2, 2024, Ronnie Friedman, 2nd Faye Sloan. Letters for the Spring planting will be mailed with an opt in. The residents will request in writing if they want a tree which will be planted in the Borough ROW only. If requests are low, ST will seek public areas to plant new trees. If budget allows, ST would like to replant Box Wood Bushes in place of what is there now. Removal of 5 hazardous Ash Trees were removed at the Duck Pond due to Ash Disease. Seeking the help of an outside professional to identify only the trees that need removal which are also located in the Duck Pond. A private donation from the ST Members for a tree in the memory of Alan Epstein will be presented to the Mayor and Council to be planted by the train station. Planting and presentations at the elementary school were discussed. Some members would like to move to Zoom for meetings. Chairperson Cetta rejected the idea. An open seat for the ST Commission needs to be filled. ST has requested Mayor Bernstein offer the open seat in his weekly email updates. A discussion on how to determine if a tree is dead, dying, or hazardous tree is determined. Deer population and solutions to controlling the population is

a concern. Ronnie Friedman and Faye Sloan will join Edd Hirning in the inspections of District 1. 8 Park St. complained of trees that were hazardous on Borough Property. After an inspection performed by the Commission, it was determined that the trees were the property of CSX, and the resident should contact them directly for an inspection. Shade Tree also advised the resident is permitted to trim branches that have crossed the property line.

Open to the Public: None

Motion to adjourn: Ronnie Friedman, 2nd Faye Sloan. The meeting closed at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Campbell Shade Tree Secretary