

POINT PLEASANT BEACH SHADE TREE COMMISSION
OCTOBER 2, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees: Anne Lightburn, Mary Ellin Mallazzo, Pete Ritchings, Dave Smith, and Louise Stillufsen

Absent: Tracey Lipari and Council Liaison Caryn Byrnes

Guest: MJ Gradel

Anne opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. The September meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Anne announced that Cathy Kniffin has been appointed as 2nd alternate to the commission and looks forward to having her on board.

Dave Smith advised the commission that several of the newly planted street trees on Chicago at the Antrim School were leaning due to high winds and heavy rain. Anne will contact Mark O'Connell to right and stake the trees.

Louise reported that ten trees were ordered from the fall Big Beautiful Tree Program. These were primarily from the Boro. Planting scheduled for next week. Mary Ellin reported that three free street tree were requested from the PPB Street Tree program. Anne thanked Louise and Mary Ellin for their handling of these projects. Planting scheduled for next week.

Commission members had positive feedback on their participation at the Seafood Festival. The oak trees that Louise dug up were a great focal point with the mulch demonstration. Many were asking about recycling and it was recommended to add a focus on that and waste reduction for next year.

Anne thanked Tracey for the great updates she wrote the fall town newsletter.

There was a discussion about the County Shade Tree Commission as the primary evaluator for street tree removal permits. Anne will discuss with Kristin Trocone, code enforcement, to see how that process is or will work and any issues to date. The commission had concerns about the responsiveness of the county due to their heavy load, which might hinder their meeting the time frame deadline for notifying applicants as required by the borough's ordinance.

Anne reported, for Caryn, that the borough has hired Falkingburg to prune and remove dead trees on Arnold Avenue in the downtown business district.

Anne reported that the commission is over-budget due to significant tree planting on Chicago Ave. She will have Chris Riehl use forfeited bond funds to cover those overruns.

Mary Ellin has been evaluating the NJUCF grant program for 2024 to see if any of the grants and possibilities or match our current projects. She will have more information for the next meeting.

MJ reported that the Commerative Tree Program has been approved. She has one applicant who will have to wait for a spring planting. She also reported that she is waiting for the plaque for the Peace Tree dedication.

Anne asked the commission to think about tree needs for 2024 budgeting purposes. Several ideas were circulated including Philadelphia Avenue, Stop and Shop and JCP&L's New Jersey Ave. property. MJ will follow-up again with JCP&L.

The commission discussed pollinators as a potential hot topic for 2024. On that issue, Louise and Anne reported on the Patchwork Wildlife by Jon Gibbons in Lake Como. The commission would like Jon to attend their next meeting for more information and to generate ideas for PPB. Anne will invite Jon to the November meeting.

The commission discussed greater linkage to its face book page and email. Mary Ellin will contact Eileen Farrell to see if link can be done from the borough website.

For 2024, the commission may entertain having a speaker series and possibly partnering with the Environmental Commission on shared topics.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm