

Bound Brook Shade Tree Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Minutes

Present: Nancy Campbell, Xue Du, Nancy Lepionka, Marsha Longshore, Mary Patten, Diana Monahan

January Minutes: Accepted as corrected.

Chair's Report:

- Annual report submitted to state electronically; Community Forestry status 'approved' for 2016
- Need to start working on next management plan due Jan 1, 2018
- Annual reports completed and submitted: Tree City USA (electronic submission) and council.
- Received about 18 completions from DPW
- Legion Court - tree removal –Approved by Mr. Herrera
- Started RFP for Certified Tree Expert (CTE) for CSIP grant. Per approved grant, CTE will provide plan for maintenance and watering, supervise planting and will coordinate with state inspector for two visits.
- Free Tree Seedlings Borough is providing trees from the state. Need to submit application by the end of Feb. Pick up is April 28 in Bridgewater. Giveaway will be April 29. Mary to ask Doreen Todaro if we can use covered area at Codrington Park. Nancy L to contact Smalley school to see if we can plant a tree and provide a lesson to a class for 2017 Arbor Day. School can choose location. Preferred day is April 28 - National Arbor Day.
- Mary distributed Shade Tree Federation membership cards.

Inspection Requests

2017 requests: 2 requests; 0 completed; 0 no action; 0 not inspected; 0 duplicates;
2 at DPW.

2016 requests: 153 requests; 96 completed; 17 no action; 4 not inspected; 8 duplicates;
28 at DPW.

2015 requests: 137 requests; 87 completed; 21 no action; 0 not inspected; 18 duplicates; 11 at DPW

2014 requests: 168 requests; 121 completed; 18 no action; 0 not inspected;
25 duplicates; 4 at DPW

2013 requests: 154 requests; 97 completed, 16 no action required, 0 not inspected, 32 duplicates, 9 at DPW.

2012 Inspection Requests: 177 requests; 132 completed, 12 no action required, 1 not inspected, 28 duplicates, 4 at DPW

Old Business:

- Letters re Sidewalk and Sewer issues.

Nancy Campbell contacted the borough plumbing subcode official, Steve Rodzinak, who clarified content in the sewer-related letter and the information sheet about sewer pipe materials and tree roots. Council member Diana Monahan will bring the documents to the Council with a request for lawyer review. Commissioners clarified that the purpose for review is to ensure the letter content does not create unintended legal issues.

- Inventory – Nancy C. will add budgeted plantings from fall 2016 and the TD Bank grant.

New Business: Arbor Day 2017 - April 28

Per Chair report above - Nancy L will contact Smalley School to see if we can plant a tree and hold a short Arbor Day ceremony including a tree lesson for students.

Tree Removal Request: Borough resident Muriel Petullo and her daughter attended the meeting at the suggestion of Mayor Fazen, to request removal of a large oak tree at 312 Thompson Ave that is planted inside the sidewalk. The tree is very large and dropping branches due to decline. Commissioners explained that it is against borough policy to remove a tree inside the sidewalk as it is on private property. Mrs. Petullo had hired a tree expert who told her he can't remove the tree because the wires are in it. Also, he did not have equipment that was big enough. The Commissioners recommended the resident contact PSE&G to see if the power company can cut the tree around the wires. Chair Mary Patten also provided names of two certified tree experts for possible estimates after PSE&G removes the part of the tree affected by the wires. Shade Tree Commissioners had previously inspected the tree and agrees that it should come down but removal is homeowners responsibility.

Adjourned 7:20

Minutes submitted by Marsha Longshore, Secretary.