

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from March 25, 2019, 7:30 PM
Administrative Complex, Room 1

Meeting was called to order by Ellen Simonetti at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Joanne Boretti -- Present

Mary Eng – Present

Elliot Gross -- Present

Beth Hutter – Present

Bob Mellert-- Present

Pat Ondar – Not Present

Ellen Simonetti – Present

Shari Spero – CME Associates -- Not Present

Randi Marder – Councilperson –Not Present

Juanita Lamaute—Guest

Rohan Patel and parents—Guests

Opening statement was entered into the record by Ellen Simonetti, chairperson:

As the presiding officer of this meeting of the Marlboro Shade Tree Committee, I hereby declare that the notice requirements in accordance with the provisions of the open meeting law chapter 21, P.L. 1995 has been provided in accordance with the annual notice procedures of C 10.428 of said Act. I further order that this public announcement be placed in the minutes of this meeting.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Community Garden

As a courtesy to our guests, the first item of the meeting was the submission of plans to build a pergola in the community garden by Rohan Patel, who is seeking Eagle Scout status. After his presentation and discussion, a motion to accept the proposal was made by Bob Mellert and seconded by Mary Eng. The vote to accept was unanimous. Rohan expects to complete the project some time in May.

Chair's Report

1. Ellen Simonetti reported that Juanita Lamaute's application to join the Marlboro Shade Tree Committee is pending.
2. Three members of the committee, Ellen, Bob, Juanita Lamaute, and Beth Hutter, attended the Community Garden Conference at Frelinghuysen Arboretum on Saturday, March 2.
3. Three members of the committee have indicated that they will attend the Shade Tree Spring Forum at the Freehold Fire Academy on March 27. This will complete the educational requirement of the committee for the current year.
4. With the assistance of Shari Spero, Ellen and Bob completed an i-Tree survey of the Marlboro canopy. The results showed that 54.3% (+/- 1.7%) of the land in the Township is covered by trees and shrubs. The second most common coverage is lawns. This is above the average canopy cover recommended for suburban environments. The results have been forwarded to the Township administrators for sharing with other interested Marlboro governmental agencies. A follow-up review of the canopy will take place in two years.

New Business

1. Two River Birch (*Betula nigra*) trees have been ordered for the Arbor Day planting on April 27. The official planting will take place at the 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the Marlboro Community Garden. On April 28, the committee will participate in the annual Dino Day event (Earth Day) with tree-related activities for children and information to share with adults.
2. Ellen shared with the committee the ordinance by which the committee was originally established and what changes have been made regarding terms of service.

Community Garden

1. See above for the discussion about building a pergola.
2. The first workday of the year was March 17, and many gardeners came to help with opening the garden for the year. A second workday is scheduled for March 31.
3. Beth repainted some of the signage and Ellen purchased water-tight boxes for the clippers that are used at the compost sites.
4. As of this morning, the last available plot in the garden has been assigned and a waiting list has been established. There will be 106 active plots in the garden planted by 76 gardening families.

5. The township has mailed invoices to those who have requested plots in the garden. Once paid, the gardener is officially a member in good standing for the current year.

6. On March 26 there is an event in Town Hall on growing food locally. Ellen will represent the committee and its community garden with a display of edibles that were "Grown in Marlboro."

Next meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Complex, Room 2.

Adjournment was at 8:25 p.m.