

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes from April 17, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Complex, Room 1

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Ellen Simonetti at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Joanne Boretti—not present

Terry Ebert-- present

Mary Eng- present

Elliot Gross-- present

Beth Hutter-- present

Bob Mellert-- present

Pat Ondar- present

Venkatesh Patrachari-- present

Ellen Simonetti- present

Shari Spero – CME Associates—not present

Randi Marder – Councilperson—not present

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.

Chair's Report: Ellen Simonetti welcomed Terry Ebert to the committee, and he was given a Shade Tree Committee hat and tee shirt. Terry replaces Juanita Lamaute.

Township Business:

1. Ellen reported that she and other members of the committee have observed the removal of trees in their respective neighborhoods, but that the addresses for a permit to remove the trees do not appear on the quarterly reports issued to the committee by the township. The committee agreed that the permit requirement should be publicized and enforced.

2. A survey of the tree canopy in Marlboro Township using i-tree technology was done four years ago. The result was that the canopy covered approximately 54% of the area of the Township, which is considered excellent for a township with our profile. Ellen is seeking the help of Shari Spero, LTE, to redo the survey to see whether business and residential development, tree removal due to Emerald Ash Borer and other pathogens, installation of solar panels on rooves, etc., have lowered that percentage, and if so, by how much.

3. Ellen also raised the concern that trees are being removed by homeowners who wish to install solar panels without providing evidence that the trees would be an impediment to efficient functioning of the system. The committee agreed that Ellen should raise the above concerns at a Township Council meeting.

New Business:

At the corner of Conover Road and Pleasant Valley Road there is a large European "Copper" Beech tree. A representative of the New Jersey Forest Service, which is part of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, examined the tree and estimated that it is approximately 260 years old, and of a size and spread that makes it the largest European Beech reported in Monmouth County and tied for the 5th largest reported in the state. A plaque has been requested for permanent installation at the site, and a small ceremony will be planned when it arrives.

Community Garden:

1. Ellen reported that all the plots at the Community Garden have been taken. At their next meeting the Township Council will consider funding in the capital budget to expand the number of garden plots by approximately 23 to accommodate additional applicants.

2. The garden continues to benefit from the volunteer services of SEWA and members of the Marlboro High School Environmental Sustainability Club.

Upcoming Events:

1. Arbor Day this year is April 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the garden. A proclamation will be read by the mayor or his representative, and a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) will be planted to mark the occasion.

2. On April 22 at 9:15 a.m. Marlboro Girl Scouts will fulfil their Tree Pledge at the garden while learning about and assisting with the protection of the young trees located in the field across from the Community Garden parking lot. Bob Mellert outlined the requirements for designating this area as an officially registered arboretum with ArbNet in the Morton register. Most of the requirements have already been met, but the search for a commitment by an organized group for continuing maintenance of the plantings is ongoing.

Next meeting: Monday, July 17, at 7:30 in the Administration Building.

Adjournment was at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Mellert, secretary