

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes from July 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Complex, Room 1

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Ellen Simonetti at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Joanna Boretti— not present

Patricia Cleary--present

Terry Ebert-- present

Mary Eng- present

Elliot Gross-- present

Beth Hutter-- not present

Bob Mellert-- present

Pat Ondar-- not present

Ellen Simonetti-- present

Shari Spero – CME Associates— not present

Iqleen Viridi, Councilwoman— 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.

The minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting were approved as published.

Chair's Report:

1. The Shade Tree Committee is responsible for assisting the Township in maintaining its certification in the following organizations: a) New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry: They require a 5-year plan, 8 CEU's from at least two members, and an annual accomplishments report. All of these have been accomplished for this year. b) Tree City USA: They require a permanent township tree committee, a public tree care ordinance, a dedicated budget, and an annual Arbor Day celebration with the reading of an official proclamation. All these requirements are/have been fulfilled.
2. Marlboro Day will be Sunday, September 8, this year Ellen Simonetti will organize a list of committee members and the times they agree to participate.
3. The state-identified Champion Tree on Pleasant Valley Road is located in an area that requires a major clean-up. Plans for a day of work by volunteers are being organized, and afterwards a day of recognition will be arranged to memorialize the tree.

Marlboro's Canopy

1. Patricia Cleary reported that the project to replant trees on Haven Way is going well. The trees have been watered and seem healthy. She also noted that she has been working with the Open Space Committee to identify the next project for reforestation. Both committees need a map of the township that identifies specifically what spaces can be planted. They will ask the township administrator for help in developing such a map to facilitate planning.
2. The committee's request for information on how approved tree removal permits are monitored has resulted in the township assigning a Community Development employee to determine whether the requirement for replacing removed trees is being fulfilled. Residents who have been granted a permit will be asked by email or telephone to state what trees have been planted as replacements and to provide photo evidence.
3. The permit discussed at our last meeting about the request for a tree removal at 2 Crine Road, Morganville, has been denied. Since that time, the homeowner has had the tree pruned, as recommended.

Arboretum

1. The Arbor Day celebration on April 27 included the official unveiling of the Marlboro Arboretum sign, with the designation of its official status as accredited by the ArbNet international agency for registering arboreta. It also included the planting of a Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia Grandiflora*, var D.D. Blanchard). Members of the Marlboro Township Council were among those in attendance.
2. A volunteer offered the services of his drone to take a photo of the arboretum from the air. This will be used in an arboretum brochure that will be developed. Terry Ebert suggested that one of the members of the Community Garden might be willing to help in developing the brochure.
3. Earth Day was marked by the assistance of members from Colgate-Palmolive, who were given the opportunity to volunteer company time to help in a community project. They helped weed and place wood chips around the young trees in the arboretum.

Community Garden

1. Ellen Simonetti reported that there are 110 families growing flowers and food; the fenced portion of the garden is approximately 86% of an acre; total fees collected by the Township for the 2024 season were \$6,120.
2. The garden continues to work with the following volunteer groups: Sewa International, Girl Scouts of America, and Master Gardeners.
3. There are five donation plots, and (including the generosity of garden members) over 247 pounds of food have been donated to local food pantries.
4. The Township administration is transitioning to on-line registration for garden membership.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment was at 7:30 p.m.

