

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from April 29, 2019, 7:30 PM
Administrative Complex, Room 2

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 -- Not Present

Beth Hutter – Present

Bob Mellert-- Present

Pat Ondar – Present

Ellen Simonetti – Present

Shari Spero – CME Associates -- Not Present

Randi Marder – Councilperson –Not Present

Juanita Lamaute—Guest

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 March meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

1. Ellen Simonetti reported that Juanita Lamaute's application to join the Marlboro Shade Tree Committee is still pending.
2. Ellen attended a meeting of the New Jersey Community Garden Committee and was asked to report back to the group on the successful compost system that is currently functioning at the Marlboro Community Garden.

New Business

1. Two River Birch (*Betula nigra*) trees were planted during the Arbor Day ceremony on April 27. Mayor Hornik was present to read a proclamation commemorating the occasion. At tonight's meeting Pat Ondar shared with the committee the Facebook video and some still photos that were taken at the event. The consensus of the committee is that the day was a success and can be used as the template for planning next year's event.
2. On April 28, the committee participated in the annual Dino Day event (Earth Day) with tree-related activities for children and information to share with adults. About one hour into the event an electric guitar presentation began and communication became impossible because of the volume. The committee agreed with the assessment of Bob Mellert that the main purpose of our presence is to instruct children about trees, and that next year, when the sound level prohibits successful communication, the committee should depart. Organizers of next year's Arbor Day will be made aware of this condition of our participation.
3. Ellen shared with the committee the fact that workdays in the Community Garden have been successful, with between 15 and 20 people volunteering to help with the chores that keep the garden functioning. The committee agreed that this activity should be continued.

New Business

This year the Memorial Day Parade will start at the Monmouth Heights Swim Club and proceed to Town Hall. This will shorten the route. The date is May 19, and step-off time is 2:00 p.m. All committee members are urged to participate.

Community Garden

1. The pergola project is on track to start construction the weekend of May 4.
4. Scouts from Marlboro Troop 85 will erect the structure in the cut-out area in the front of the garden.
2. A proposal has been made by a local artist and community garden member, Mira Welnowska, to place some appropriate pieces of sculpture in the garden. The committee was excited about this possibility and asked Ellen to follow up with the offer.
3. Beth Hutter prepared four laminated signs for display at each of the compost stations reminding gardeners to cut up their contributions and cover them with browns (dried leaves).

4. Ellen announced that tools and a cooler for donated produce have been purchased and are in the shed. Pat and Beth both offered to contribute ice packs that can be used to keep the donated produce fresh.
5. The dying tree in the back of the garden has not yet been removed because the swamp is preventing the township's DPW from getting its equipment there. The committee recommended that Ellen contact DPW to allow the garden to hire Aspen Tree Service to remove it, because they have trained tree climbers who would not be hampered by the mud.
6. Joanne Boretti raised an objection to the use of glyphosate for weed removal in and around the outside of the garden. After discussion the committee agreed that OMRI approved chemicals should be used as the first choice. Joanne offered to remove vines on the back fence if necessary as an alternative to the use of a chemical herbicides. Ellen is trying to purchase an OMRI approved herbicide for use at the garden.
7. Beth inquired about the purchase of plants for the perennial garden in front of the fence facing Tennent Road. She will make a list of plants in order of preference, and this list will be submitted to the township for approval as part of the Shade Tree Committee budget.

Next meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday, May 20 (not May 27), at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Complex, Room 2.

Adjournment was at 8:35 p.m.