

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from Aug. 26, 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 – Not Present

Elliot Gross -- Present

Beth Hutter – Present

Juanita Lamaute—Present

Bob Mellert-- Present

Pat Ondar – Present

Venkatesh Patrachari-- Not 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.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

1. Ellen Simonetti and Bob Mellert offered their home as part of the Monmouth County Eco-tour on August 17 and hosted 10 visitors. They have decided to participate again next year if asked.
2. The Shade Tree Committee has accumulated over 917 hours of volunteer service to the township, and the Community Garden has donated over 138 pounds of food to local food banks.

Old Business

1. Ellen Simonetti has been in contact with Shari Spero regarding the committee's motion to request feedback on tree removal permits. She has been advised that this information can best be obtained from the township, and she will request it from the township administrator this week. The response will be shared with the committee at the next meeting.

2. Juanita Lamaute and Joanne Boretti prepared a report, delivered by Joanne, on several conferences they attended regarding the effects of glyphosate (the major ingredient in "Round-up", a commonly used herbicide). What they shared from the conferences and from their own research is that 1) it is not recommended to use any chemicals near a monarch way station; 2) although still controversial, evidence has been accumulated that glyphosate may be carcinogenic to humans; 3) some evidence that denies this claim may be tainted; 4) glyphosate kills milkweed, the breeding plant for monarch butterflies, and may affect them directly in their chrysalis stage; and 5) anecdotal evidence from our monarch station suggests that the mortality of chrysalises was higher than our expectations after Round-up was applied at the perimeter of the garden last year.

Ellen Simonetti agreed that the issue is still controversial and cited research that 1) Rutgers and other state extension services continue to support the use of glyphosate when used as directed on the label, 2) the EPA has ordered California to remove the claim of carcinogenicity of the product from their labels, 3) studies in Canada dispute the claim that glyphosate is harmful, and 4) several other countries that have addressed the problem have also refused to ban the product when used as directed.

Everyone agreed that weed-wacking is a better solution to the weed problem in and around the garden when possible. Ellen Simonetti stated that DPW and those they hire have been and will be instructed to clear the fences of weeds by weed-whacking them. Also, they will be told not to treat any area in or around our garden with glyphosat

New Business

1. Marlboro Day is Saturday, September 8, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Ellen Simonetti, Juanita Lamaute, Beth Hutter, Joanne Boretti, Bob Mellert, and Elliott Gross all indicated that they would attend and repeat the activities

they led at last year's event.

Community Garden

1. Ellen Simonetti reported that another Eagle Scout project is being developed. It will include improvements to the composting system in the garden.
3. Students from Collier School built and donated seven beautiful benches to the garden. A card of appreciation was sent to the coordinator of the project at Collier School.
3. Weed control continues to be an issue in the garden. Ellen Simonetti had a chance meeting with the workers from the company with which the township has contracted for lawn maintenance and weed control. They will be mowing once a week and weed-wacking around the outside perimeter of the garden.
4. The Community Garden will have a pot-luck social on September 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Next meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Complex.

Adjournment was at 8:30 p.m.