

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from October 28, 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 -- Not Present

Mary Eng – Present

Elliot Gross -- Present

Beth Hutter – Present

Juanita Lamaute -- Not Present

Bob Mellert -- Present

Pat Ondar – Not 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 September meeting were approved.

New Business

The committee welcomed Anirud Singh from Morganville Scout Troop 101, who presented his Eagle Scout proposal to construct two raised beds at the back of the Community Garden to serve as a monarch butterfly way station. The committee unanimously approved his proposal. Ellen Simonetti recommended that he make contact with Joanne Boretti, who leads that project in the garden, for help at the planting stage for the milkweed.

Chair's Report

1. Ellen Simonetti announced that the committee will continue to receive periodic notifications of the location of tree pruning to clear power lines in the Township
2. The Shade Tree Committee has accumulated over 1109 hours of volunteer service to the township, and the Community Garden has donated over 234 pounds of food to local food banks as of the meeting date. A discussion followed about the quantity of unharvested produce grown at the garden that could be donated if the plot owners would allow volunteers to gather and donate when they are unable to harvest for themselves. Attention to this problem will be raised at the winter orientation meetings for the 2020 gardeners.

Old Business

A listing of tree removal permits will be provided to the committee on a quarterly basis through the office of Mr. Kevin Kane.

Community Garden

1. Ellen Simonetti has received two additional requests for handicapped beds for next season. The township will include these requests in their upcoming capital improvements budget.
2. A sign indicating that Monmouth County Master Gardeners work in this garden has been added to the bulletin at the request of the Monmouth County Master Gardener Association.
3. Ellen Simonetti reported that she has encountered a communications problem due to a language barrier with the owners of at least one community garden plot, resulting in a violation of garden rules and procedures. She is attempting to resolve this issue without having to ask the owners to leave.
4. Another Eagle Scout project dealing with the compost system is currently in the brain-storming stage. Updates will be made when appropriate.
5. Hose cart storage this year will be provided by the township under the direction of Melvin Fitzpatrick of DPW. This will alleviate the need to disassemble the the six systems for storage in the shed.
6. There was a discussion about the condition of the wood and the bracing in some of the beds installed in previous years. When repairs are needed, plot owners are urged not to attempt the project themselves.

Next meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Complex.

Adjournment was at 8:20 p.m.