

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from January 26, 2020, 12:30 PM
Town Hall / Court House

Meeting was called to order by Ellen Simonetti at 12:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Joanne Boretti -- Present

Mary Eng – Not Present

Elliot Gross -- Not Present

Beth Hutter – Present

Juanita Lamaute -- 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.

The minutes from the November, 2019, meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

1. Ellen Simonetti announced that the data for Tree City recertification have been submitted.
2. Ellen also noted that tubeling trees from the New Jersey Forestry Service will no longer be available. The committee will discuss their options regarding tree availability at public events at the next meeting in February.
3. Next month we will also need to discuss our five-year-plan focus for this year. One possibility relates to tree removal permits and the obligation to

replace lost trees. Other possible themes will also be considered.

4. On Tuesday, January 28, and Wednesday, January 29, the New Jersey Landscape Association's "Total Pro Expo" will be held at the Edison, NJ, convention center. If any committee member is interested in attending, information can be obtained on line by searching "Total Pro Expo". Shade tree CEU's will be awarded for attendance. Bob Mellert and Ellen Simonetti have already indicated that they will attend.

5. Two suggestions for our annual tree-planting ceremony on Arbor Day are Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*) and/or Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*). Other suggestions are welcomed, but remember that the trees will be planted in a wet area.

New Business

1. Juanita Lamaute inquired about the status of a tree permit request at a residential site that several committee members visited last month. Final resolution of that request is currently unknown.

2. Bob Mellert complained that the tree-pruning service used by JCP&L to protect power lines does not seem to have the interests of trees in mind as they work. Several other committee members agreed that they prune excessively, leave debris, and destroy the aesthetics of the area where they prune. Ellen Simonetti suggested that we send her pictures, and the committee can forward them to township authorities for their evaluation.

3. Venkatesh Patrachari asked that the committee consider options to introduce the composting of tree leaves within local communities willing to support the effort. A plan needs to be developed at a subsequent meeting and recommended to the township.

Community Garden Membership Meeting

At this point the Shade Tree Committee invited the members of the Marlboro Community Garden to conduct their first organizational meeting of the season. The garden operates under the aegis of the Shade Tree Committee, and the township's "hold harmless" agreement must be signed in the presence of an STC member.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administrative Complex kitchen.

