

City of Plainfield  
Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 22, 2019, 7:30 pm  
Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Avenue, Second Floor Conference Room  
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Standing Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm. Present were Planning Liaison April Stefel, Vanessa Doman, Oscar Riba, and Barbara Spellmeyer. Drue Doman arrived at 7:34, after roll call. New member Myra Paredes was excused.
2. **Open Public Meeting Act:** Publication was handled by the Planning Division.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting of April 24 will be forthcoming.
4. **Continuing Education Units:** Not discussed.
5. **Budget Uses this Month:** Not discussed.

**Business Agenda:**

**1. Arbor Day:** Oscar Riba noted that the Arbor Day event was well attended in spite of the rain. The Shade Tree Commission was represented at the event by Oscar and Drue Doman, and the Planning Division by April Stefel. A representative from the Crescent Avenue Church also attended, as well as children from a local school, who seemed to have a great time.

Oscar wanted to recognize and thank John and Carmen Louise and the staff at the DPW for planting the tree. He also thanked April for her leadership in making this a successful event.

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program presented Plainfield with a Tree City USA flag and two signs to be placed in visible locations. April explained that in order to display the flag at City Hall, she will need to draft a resolution for the City Council authorizing the display. For the signs, the Commission entertained a number of possible locations including the Green Brook Trail, Woodland Avenue, and Leland/ South End Parkway. The decision will be taken up again at the next meeting.

**2. Tree Planting.** The Commission discussed the need to identify locations for new trees. The original deadline was the end of May, but because of inclement weather and personal commitments, members agreed to move the date to the end of June. April noted that two Ward 2 locations in particular will require attention as a result of die-offs: Brisbane Estates, which will require 31 replacement trees, and Gresham Avenue, which will require 20. Additional trees will be planted in other wards as well.

**3. STC Budget:** Vanessa lodged an objection to the decision to devote so many resources to Ward 2. Other members of the Commission pointed out that the die-off of newly planted trees was an exceptional event, but not unprecedented, as it has happened in other wards. On those occasions, comparable resources were allocated to remedy the problem.

A lengthy discussion followed about how to reconcile our allotted budget with our estimated need for 110 trees. April Stefel agreed to develop two possible budgets, with allotments for each ward, which we will vote on, either by email or in person at the next meeting. Members agreed that funds would also be needed for the ongoing education of Commissioners and for horticultural materials (such as tree guards).

**4. Future Business.** Vanessa proposed a future discussion of proactive responses to the growing problem of pest damage to city trees.

**5. Recruiting New Members.** The Commission noted that it still has two Alternate positions to be filled.

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm. Next meeting scheduled for June 26, 2019.