

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from October 22, 2018, 7:30 PM
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 2

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—Not Present

Beth Hutter – Present

Bob Mellert-- Present

Pat Ondar – Not Present

Ellen Simonetti – Present

Shari Spero – CME Associates -- 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 August meeting were approved. (There was no meeting in September.)

Chair's Report

Two members of the committee, Bob Mellert and Ellen Simonetti, joined Shari Spero at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference on October 18. Topics discussed included the spotted lantern fly (a new pest on the horizon), the use of i-tree for tree information, and canopy cover studies. Shari will follow up on obtaining further information about recent canopy studies as they pertain to Marlboro. STC members should consider volunteering for next year's conference in October, 2019.

Open Items

1. Information about Emerald Ash Borer was posted on the Marlboro website, with a township telephone number for further information. No information was available as to how many residents have made use of this service.
2. Positive feedback from Marlboro Day was noted regarding the monarch butterfly station, staffed by Joanne Boretti, and the large map highlighting township ash trees threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer. Tubelings were distributed, but questions arose regarding how many to order and how best to get them to residents willing to plant them
3. On Saturday, October 27, at 10:00 a.m. there will be an installation of the plaque marking the location of a white pine that was germinated from a seed taken into space. The certificate of authenticity will be mounted and hung in the township office. The mayor, the Council president, and the former head of the Shade Tree Committee will join the committee to celebrate this event.
4. Members inquired whether to investigate the possibility of planting trees at the sites of Open Space. Shari suggested the possibility of obtaining a CSIP (Community Stewardship Initiative Program) grant for this purpose. She agreed to inquire about the feasibility of this idea. Joanne offered her services in setting up another monarch butterfly station at one of them.

Community Garden

1. Ellen reported that the first of two workdays, held on October 21, was very successful in starting the process of winterizing the garden. A second workday is scheduled for October 27.
2. The committee agreed that, if necessary, one or more of the remaining large plots can be divided in order to accommodate more new gardeners.
3. The focus for 2019 will be the compost system. There are still problems with members not abiding by best practices. These issues will be addressed at next year's orientation session, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 27, and Monday, February 4. Beth Hutter volunteered to repaint the bin labels that have faded.
4. DPW (Department of Public Works) will assist in reworking the parking lot to eliminate water problems and expand options for relocating the portable toilet.
5. Donations to food pantries by the gardeners is approximately 518 pounds.

Next meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday, November 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Complex.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.