

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes from September 23, 2019, 7:30 PM
Administrative Complex, Room 2

Meeting was called to order by Ellen Simonetti at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Joanne Boretti -- Not Present

Mary Eng – 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 August meeting were approved, as revised via email.

Chair's Report

1. Ellen Simonetti submitted next year's proposed budget and sent it to the Township Committee for their input and approval.
2. The Shade Tree Committee has accumulated over 1033 hours of volunteer service to the township, and the Community Garden has donated over 171 pounds of food to local food banks.
3. A conference hosted by the National Nursery and Landscape Association will be held next year on January 28 and 29 at Raritan Center.

Interested Shade Tree Committee members will attend.

Old Business

1. The committee has received and reviewed the Township's 2019 list of homeowners who have requested permission to remove one or more trees from their property. The information will be archived for the committee's records. Bob Mellert inquired if all applications had been approved and if the list contains any refusals. Ellen Simonetti will pose this question to the township administrator.
2. In a post-mortem to Marlboro Day, the committee agreed to prepare themselves more thoroughly regarding the trees to be distributed to the public. There is also a need for a tent in case the committee's allotted site is again in the sun. Beth Hutter volunteered to provide a tent for our use. In addition, more space should be allotted to the butterfly display. Bob Mellert suggested that, given the increased interest in butterfly preservation, there should be a special committee, apart from the Community Garden, dedicated to promoting this cause.

Community Garden

1. Ellen Simonetti reported that next month the committee will host Ani Singh, who will explain his proposed Eagle Scout project to build two raised beds in the far rear corner of the garden for use as either a butterfly garden or for additional rentable plots, if needed.
2. There were 17 gardeners and 3 guests who came to the pot-luck on September 15.
3. Looking forward, Ellen Simonetti reported that at least seven to nine existing plots will become available next year, and that 15 people are already on the waiting list. She also noted that the lawn maintenance is now under the supervision of Melvin Fitzpatrick of DPW. And she has ordered three bags of seed garlic (approximately 60 heads) for planting by those who requested them.
4. Pat Ondar suggested that in the Community Garden orientation program next year some time be set aside to help members diagram their plots to ensure maximum usage. The discussion suggested that gardeners be invited to bring in a list of vegetables they wish to plant and that the Master Gardeners who are garden members might assist them with their planning.

Next meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Complex.

Adjournment was at 8:10 p.m.