

**Princeton Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes of May 26, 2020  
Virtual Conference Call  
Monument Hall--East Conference Room  
1 Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540**

**Members**

**Voting:**

Sharon Ainsworth  
Victoria Airgood  
Welmoet Bok van Kammen  
Patricia Frawley  
Lily Krauss  
Alexandra Radbil  
Janet Stern

**Non-Voting:**

Sandra Chen: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
Ray Devoe: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

**Council Liaison:**

Michelle Lambros

**Town Arborist:**

Taylor Sapudar

**Guests:** None

The regular meeting of the PSTC was called to order on 5/26/2020 via video conference call at 5:06 pm by Ainsworth.

**Opening Statement:** Read by Ainsworth.

**Roll Call:** Bok van Kammen, Radbil, Devoe, Frawley, Chen, Ainsworth, Sapudar, Lambros, Krauss.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 28, 2020, meeting were approved with corrections by a motion made by Krauss and seconded.

Ayes: Bok van Kammen, Krauss, Radbil, Frawley, Ainsworth.

**Motion carried.**

**REPORTS:**

## **1. Arborist Report**

All the spring plantings are done with no issues noted. A volunteer organization reached out to Sapudar and Ainsworth to facilitate a volunteer day, where volunteers plant saplings to reforest an area. Mountain Lakes came to mind with tentatively plans for Fall 2020. Sapudar will be following up with the organization this week. Sapudar is working with PSEG to identify hazards adjacent to power lines for removal purposes. He also reached out again to the State regarding the Nassau Street Tree Work since the funding is now available and the state contractors want to proceed while the traffic volume continues to be low.

Municipal tree work is being done two days per week with emergencies being addressed as required. Ornamental pruning will be delayed for the time being.

## **2. Council Liaison Report**

Lambros indicated that legal counsel is making progress on the draft of proposed revisions to the TPZ ordinance. Tennis courts reopening was noted with council awaiting news of pool opening. Work continues on helping businesses open and on affordable housing. Comments were made regarding the Commemorative Tree Fund and possible use of smaller trees or saplings. Bok van Kammen questioned the memorial tree plantings and options available. Possible notations regarding memorial tree options could be posted on several sites. Radbil indicated that we would have to explore options. One tree was planted at Marquand Park. Commemorative tree donations have been deemed tax deductible. The plaque issue has still to be resolved. Ainsworth indicated that we need to determine what entity (town administrator or Council) has the authority to affirm the Commemorative Tree process. We might also consider the New Haven program that encourages residents to honor graduates by making a donation to plant a tree to commemorate the event.

(Airgood joined the meeting at 5:21)

**NEW BUSINESS: none**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1.Tree Inventory Contract Proposal review: (Bok van Kammen, Chen, Radbil)**

Extensive information has been received from the subcommittee as noted. Sapudar has been in contact with Davey representatives to address questions raised by members of the subcommittee as had SA. The Davey representative responded to 5 questions submitted by TS and 9 from SA. Unfortunately, some of the Davey response was not received in time for all members to review in advance of the meeting discussion. The STC discussion centered on the following issues identified by the Radbil subcommittee:

**Questions 1** regarded what trees would be included.

Response from Sapudar was that all trees and stumps and tree pits would be included in phase one. Park trees would be included in phase two. Bok van Kammen asked whether tree total could be increased to include approximately 1,000 potential

planting sites because these sites were not included in the initial estimate. Members agreed that the total should be increased to 19,000 trees.

**Question 2.** How would the inventory be used?

Town workers would be tasked with and trained to update information each day when doing field work. The public would have access to street trees either on ROW of their property or anywhere in town. Marketing to homeowners would include urging residents to access the inventory for information. Sapudar would schedule analysis of updated information. Bok van Kammen's comments were addressed by Sapudar.

**Question 3.** What information is not included in the proposal?

Smaller plantings including those less than 6" DBH are included in the proposal. Bok van Kammen discussed issues related to crown condition and dieback. Ainsworth read from the Davey response email to answer this question, "Davey proposes doing a rapid level 2 risk assessment and can add a data field for crown condition or crown density at no further cost. Crown condition is more commonly used."

Chen questioned the efficacy of risk assessment. Sapudar indicated that more intensive risk assessment would be counterproductive. Bok van Kammen addressed issues related to a variable described as 'possible defects' (Lambros left at 5:44)

**Motion:** made by Krauss and seconded to accept the Davey Tree proposal as submitted to inventory 19000 trees

Discussion: none

**Ayes:** Krauss, Frawley, Airgood, Ainsworth,

**Nays:** Radbil, Bok van Kammen

**Motion Carried**

Radbil indicated concern that Davey will be using current data and trying to correct which is a problem for accuracy. Will this be a new inventory or just update the old inventory? Ainsworth indicated that we have used Davey for twenty years. They are experts in this field and have provided information on many other inventories. It was agreed that the subcommittee could review the latest Davey response materials and submit their findings to the full STC.

**2. Status of Commemorative Tree Planting and Shade Tree Trust Fund**

**(Lambros, Radbil)** This was referred to earlier. Whether or not council needs to take action and authorize this process needs to be addressed. Commemorative Trees – Lambros discussed 4 possible donation scenarios: a commemorative tree; a plaque with commemorative tree; a smaller and thus less expensive commemorative tree; donations to the Shade Tree Reserve Fund. Council has not yet decided if the commemorative tree procedure must be approved by Council. Lambros will go back to Council to determine this. The plaque is under review by other Commissions. Before developing procedures/guidelines for smaller trees and for making donations to the fund, STC will wait for Council decision. Once approved the existing form will be revised to reflect the additional options.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to adjourn made by Krauss and seconded.

Ayes: , Frawley, Radbil, Bok van Kammen, Airgood, Krauss, Ainsworth.

**Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned 6:13 pm.**

**Addendum: Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Princeton Shade Tree Trust Reserve authorization authority (Council and/or town administrator)</b>	<b>June Meeting</b>	<b>Lambros, Sapudar, Ainsworth</b>
<b>Commemorative Tree program-authorization authority (Council and/or town administrator) If approved, procedures to incorporate additional options outlined by ML</b>	<b>June meeting</b>	<b>Lambros, Sapudar, Ainsworth  Radbil</b>
<b>Inventory – review new Davey comments</b>	<b>June meeting</b>	<b>Bok van Kammen, Chen, Radbil</b>