

SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING – REORGANIZATION MEETING – JANUARY 11th, 2021

PRESENT:

George Meglio
Victor Fontana
Angelo Urato
Elizabeth Gil
Philip Romero
Dominick Azzolini

ABSENT

Paul Dahl

The Reorganization Meeting of the Shade Tree Commission for January 11th, 2021 was opened and called to order at 6:25 PM by Secretary Susan Schulz.

This is our Reorganization Meeting and a motion is necessary to appoint our Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2020.

Motion: Dominick Azzolini made a motion, seconded by Angelo Urato named George Meglio as Chairman.

Roll call: All members of the Commission present voted yes.

Motion: George Meglio made a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Gil named Angelo Urato as Vice-Chairman.

Roll call: All members of the Commission present voted yes.

Chairman Meglio stated he emailed Borough Administer Eilert regarding the goals of the year; plantings, Arbor Day, getting Paul Cowie to do some DPW training. Rich Schulz, from DPW has done a tremendous job; would like to bring him and several other guys to the next level. We are ahead of elevating and pruning. Arbor Day, we hope will happen this year, outside; Triangle Park on 4th & Fritsch. There are 3 plaques at this location with Arbor Day past members. One tree is missing there; would like a new tree. Also, at the 14 St. field we lost 3 American Elms; stumps need to be pulled out with a back hoe. Need Borough Administrator to look at this

Chairman Meglio stated he would like to plant about 100 trees this year; we missed several spring plantings – along areas like 10th St, Marlboro Rd – construction areas – there are no trees. Commissioner Romero stated he had spoken to Borough Administrator Eilert & Mayor Sarlo before the meeting; Administrator Eilert doesn't want to plant trees this year, would rather send something out with the newsletter, have a section stating if anyone wants a tree to call Borough Hall; Mayor was on the same page. Their feeling is that anytime we send out the letters and we go out to plant that we get people who didn't want them, get people annoyed. They feel we have done all the construction zones. George emphasized, "Downes Tree Service planted 15 trees for us last month; and he ran the planting program without one issue. And if that's the case we will never fulfill this urban forest; we will be 20 years in the ground before we ever get trees back in the ground. Tenth St, Marlboro Rd, Sussex Rd, they were all construction areas, we removed 75 trees; there are no trees. If you plant on demand, if you ask

people, we will never have trees; he opposes this 100%. It goes against all our goals. It goes against making this earth a better place, a cleaner place, people love Wood-Ridge for our trees. It goes against everything we've tried to do over the last 20 years.

A discussion ensued about the "Holiday Tree" at Veteran's Park. Chairman Meglio he did some shopping around. He saw several beautiful trees in Vernon that are already 27ft tall – can be replanted – about \$7,000. Guaranteed for 1 full season. Girls Scout tree – prefer not to use for Christmas Tree.

Chairman Meglio mentioned he is on the State Board now – access to Donna Massey. It will help bring Shade Tree Commissions from this area together. Meglio & Urato have gone to Regional Meetings – sit with other people from different areas and get new ideas; learn something new.

Angelo Urato – District 1
Paul Dahl – District 2
Victor Fontana – District 3
Liz Gil – District 4
George Meglio – District 5

A discussion took place about landscapers in town – not doing the proper mulching technique. It was suggested to come to the April 12th meeting with a list of primary landscapers we see in town. A letter should be sent to them. Discuss with Mayor & Council about having them register

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Schulz
Shade Tree Secretary