

# MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes from July 17, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Complex, Room 1

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Ellen Simonetti at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Joanne Boretti—not present

Terry Ebert-- present

Mary Eng- present -

Elliot Gross-- present

Beth Hutter—not present

Bob Mellert-- present

Pat Ondar- present

Venkatesh Patrachari--not 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 of the April 17, 2023, meeting were approved as published.

#### Chair's Report:

1. Ellen Simonetti announced that the plaque to mark the 260 year-old beech tree on Pleasant Vally Road will be completed soon and a ceremony will be held to unveil it sometime in the fall.
2. The Chair also shared a letter sent to the mayor and council members thanking them for the funds to expand the garden.
3. As of today, 161 pounds of food from the Marlboro Community Garden have been donated to local food pantries.

#### Old Business

1. The mid-year report has been sent to the committee members and filed with the township. It included the committee's participation in ceremonies at the MCG on Earth Day and Arbor Day. An accompanying email reminded the township that this committee is not a commission.
2. The topic of tree removal permits was revisited. Elliot Gross noted that the Greenbriar Community Newsletter included a reminder that anyone removing a tree needs a township permit. The committee was happy to note that information about this township ordinance is getting publicity among some township residents.
3. Terry Ebert suggested that the township should contact tree removal services who work in Marlboro to warn their customers about obtaining permits and replanting trees where required. The committee agreed that the township needs some kind of follow-up to ensure that this statute is being observed.

#### New Business:

1. The committee agreed to participate in Marlboro Day on September 10, 2023. A schedule will be drawn up to divide the duties into shifts so everyone who wishes can participate for part of the day. Pat Ondar suggested that we might give away seed packets to those who visit our tent. Pat also volunteered to contact Home Depot and other seed sellers for donations.

2. A new fee structure for community garden plots will take effect next year. Most gardeners will notice a slight increase in their annual fee. Ellen also noted that there may be a few current gardeners who will not be invited back because they have not been maintaining their plot(s), and the committee may have to deal with these issues in the future.
3. On Thursday, July 20, at 2:00 p.m. three members of the USDA will be given a tour of the garden. Committee members interested in meeting them and thanking them for their help are welcome to join the tour.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, at 7:30 at Town Hall.

Adjournment was at 8:05 p.m.

