

# MARLBORO TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes from October 16, 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-- 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 July 17, 2023, meeting were approved as published.

Chair's Report: None

Old Business:

- a. The report of the quarterly tree-removal permits issued by the Township was sent to the members.
- b. The Community Garden expansion has been completed. There are 27 new beds that will be available for new members and for current gardeners who have requested additional spaces. Volunteers from SEWA and the Marlboro High School Environmental Sustainability Club have completed their service for this gardening season. Despite the rain during the last several Saturdays, most of the work in the garden has been finished and the garden is nearly ready for the winter ahead. This year our donation to local food pantries has already exceeded 600 pounds, with more produce still to come.
- c. The committee was asked whether we should participate in this year's Marlboro Day on October 22, after two rain-outs. The consensus of the group was that we would not.

New Business:

- a. On September 28, 2023, Ellen Simonetti completed an i-Tree Canopy survey for the Township. A previous survey was done in March, 2019. Copies of both were shared with those at the meeting. Since that time, the data show that the Township has lost 12% of the canopy. (Note that at the meeting the chair quoted an incorrect number.)
- b. A presentation to the Town Council about the observations of the Shade Tree Committee is being considered. A list of possible issues was distributed and discussed. Ellen will meet with the Township administrator on November 7.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7:00.

Adjournment was at 8:05 p.m.