

## **Shade Tree Commission Minutes April 17, 2019**

Chairman Gregory Luciano called the Shade Tree Commission meeting of April 17, 2019 to order at 7:37 pm in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the municipal building of the Borough of Totowa.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner: Booth, Luciano, N. Makoujy  
Commission Secretary: Linda Paese

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner: Murphy, D. Makoujy, Fusco  
Board Liaison: Anthony Picarelli

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner N. Makoujy made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting seconded by Commissioner Booth.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Luciano stated that the Management Plan is complete and has been submitted to the state.

Commissioner Luciano reviewed the best choice tree for the Arbor Day celebration and three White Dogwood trees will be planted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Luciano stated that there is plenty of money in the shade tree budget for a fall planting. He has asked all commissioners to start to obtain applications in their district. He will also request to have a notice placed on the Borough website, in the Totowa magazine, and on PVTV.

Commissioner Luciano informed the Shade Tree Commissioners that a resident on Frances and Wilson requested several trees on their municipal right of way. Due to spacing issues, Commissioner Luciano reviewed the site and a decision will be made if trees can be planted in that area.

Commissioner Luciano has made a request to Mr. Wassel to have a bench purchased and placed in Veterans Park for the Arbor Day Celebration.

Commissioner Luciano has drafted letters to homeowners with high risk trees that he suggests should be mitigated or removed. Copies of the letters are attached and will need Mayor and Council approval prior to being sent to the homeowners.

**ADJOURN:**

Commissioner N. Makoujy made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Commissioner Booth. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on May 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Paese  
Commission Secretary

## Letter suggesting removal

Dear Resident:

Last year the Totowa Shade tree commission completed an assessment of trees planted in the Municipal Rights of Way and town parks.

The assessment was performed by a certified tree expert. It was fully funded by a grant, thus no taxpayer monies were used.

Trees with "extreme high risk" and "high risk" for failure were assessed.

Extreme high risk trees are trees past any mitigation and removal is a suggested remedy  
High Risk Trees can be mitigated to lower its risk. Usually Pruning is the remedy.

While the care of trees planted in the "right of way" are the home owner's responsibility, the Totowa Shade Tree commission is committed to developing and monitoring a healthy community forest.

As a service to our community, we (or mayor and council) are mindful of the possible property and personal damage that can occur with tree failure, and believed it valuable to our residents in conducting this assessment.

A Tree located in your right of way has been assessed as past mitigation and removal is suggested.

Some residents have already taken action on their tree. If so, thank you.

If you have any questions about your tree, please contact the municipal Clerks office (or code enforcement office) with your contact information and someone from the Shade Tree commission will call you.

Verbiage In parenthesis is your choice

## Letter suggesting mitigation

Dear Resident:

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As a service to our community, we (or mayor and council) are mindful of the possible property and personal damage that can occur with tree failure, and believed it valuable to our residents in conducting this assessment.

A Tree located in your right of way has been assessed as needing mitigation to reduce risk of failure.

Some residents have already taken action on their tree. If so, thank you.

If you have any questions about your tree, please contact the municipal Clerks office (or code enforcement office) with your contact information and someone from the Shade Tree commission will call you.

Verbiage in red is your choice