

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Minutes

October 9, 2014

8:30a.m. at Mountain Lakes Borough Hall

Members Present: Consuelo Murtagh, Jay Evelyth, Janet Horst, Heather Carr

Borough Council Representative: Peter Holmberg

1. Comments from the public: none.
2. Minutes from September meeting: two revisions were noted. The corrected minutes will be voted on in November.
3. Ron Underwood, a prospective new STC member, was invited to attend but did not make the meeting. A discussion was held on his potential role in helping STC migrate to a new tree inventory system, iTree, written and is maintained by the U.S. Forestry Department. There is a desire to convert our present, stand alone and proprietary system to iTree in 2015.
4. This fall's tree survey is done but not all the prune and remove data has been updated on the Tree Inventory System. Consuelo will follow up with individual STC members with regard to their status. A discussion took place on the role STC has to inform a private homeowner of a potentially hazardous tree on their property. ACTION: Peter will discuss this issue with Robert Tovo. A sample of the "standard" letter mailed in the past years was reviewed.

Peter noted the need for more publicity and clarification on STC's jurisdiction within the right-of-ways and the parallel responsibility private homeowners have to identify and remove hazardous trees (or limbs) from their properties.

5. This year's 89th Annual Conference of the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation will take place October 24-25 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Janet and Heather Scott will attend for CEU on the 24th; Marnie will attend a special iTree workshop on the 25th.
6. The Borough of Mountain Lakes is in the process of installing a new website. Consuelo has met with the borough's website coordinator and has reviewed what will be uploaded from STC's current website. All STC minutes will be uploaded to the new site.
7. The Community Forestry Plan, due to be updated in 2015, will be written by our borough arborist, Lorraine Konopka. One of the goals being considered is better enforcement of Borough Ordinance §102-35 and §102-36. It was noted that although builders install a drip-line protective tape around trees in the approved setback tree management plan, over the course of time building materials and/or equipment is often stowed in these areas.
8. The Town Club of Mountain Lakes earlier this spring awarded STC \$600 for the installation of two trees at the boat launch into Wildwood Lake, (Briarcliff Road). ACTION: Peter will check with the DPW regarding their plans to renovate this pocket park before STC arranges for any tree plantings. Note: The location was a dredging site in 2013 and a number of trees had to be removed.
9. Garden Club's Junior Nature Club, for 3rd Graders at Wildwood School, invited Consuelo to represent STC at their first fall workshop on tree identification. The workshop, which was held on Oct 8, was noted for its unexpected popularity: 28 children attended.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am. **Next meeting is November 13, 2014.**

Respectfully submitted: Janet Horst