

Shade Tree Commission
Borough of Mountain Lakes, NJ - Minutes: May 14, 2015

In Attendance: Consuelo Murtagh, Sandy Batty, Janet Horst*

* Discussion took place although a full quorum was not present.

(1) Comments from the Public: Edwina Gaiser-Marchev, a borough resident, attended the meeting with an interest in possibly joining the Shade Tree Commission as an alternate commission member. Edwina is also exploring other borough committees/commissions and is in a 'self-education' process.

(2) Chris Capodanna, a returning resident to Mountain Lakes, and another prospective member of the Shade Tree Commission, had expressed an intention to attend today's meeting but was noted absent.

(3) April's minutes were approved. As of March 2015, all minutes of the commission are available on the borough's website.

(4) The borough's new manager Rich Sheola's attendance was welcomed. The commission reviewed the need to contract with a new borough arborist not only to re-author the soon-to-be expired "Five year Community Forestry Plan", (i.e. as of December-end, 2015) but the plan's importance to the town's legal indemnification going forward. Additionally, the need for a borough-owned property survey, (e.g. pocket parks, paths and recreational areas), was also discussed given the town's aging tree canopy. These borough owned lands are not part of the STC's right-of-way annual survey nor jurisdiction for review. From time-to-time hazardous trees on borough-owned land, if noted by the STC, are directed to the Borough Manager for further assessment and action.

(5) Arbor Day - held at Wildwood School on April 24th and coordinated through the Shade Tree Commission - was commended for its annual skit and participation. Over 400 various tree saplings were distributed to Wildwood students and their families. The trees were part of over 1,000 saplings distributed to Mountain Lakes residents on Eco-Weekend 2015. The trees were made available via a special state-sponsored, Sandy Hurricane replacement tree planting.

(6) Blair Bravo completed her Core Training requirements.

(7) CEU training units are being explored for both STC and borough DPW personnel to attend this fall/winter.

(8) Summer tree right-of-way tree surveys will take place in the next month or two. Tree reports, by walking zone, will be distributed at the next STC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Next meeting: June 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Janet Horst