

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
Meeting by Zoom

Attending: Chris Capodanno, Lucas Stelling, Sandy Batty, Marnie Vyff, Dan Amato, Andrew Armani, Phyllis Deering

Council Liaison: Cynthia Korman

Student members: Jackie, Rebecca

1. Administration

The March minutes were approved as written

2. Events

Arbor Day Phyllis has been in touch with the Wildwood School Principal to see if an Arbor Day celebration is possible during the pandemic. The date would be April 30th. About 100 tree saplings will be given to students in one class; bagging will be done on April 29.

The Council passed the Arbor Day proclamation at its last meeting.

Tree saplings have been ordered for pickup on April 23rd. Phyllis may need help with pickup if we get the 850 saplings we ordered. The saplings will be available to the community and Morris County residents on April 24th from 10am-1pm at the Mountain Lakes Fire house. Phyllis will be there to distribute and asked if anyone else would like to help. Phyllis created a flier to offer the saplings to residents outside town and she will put information in the virtual backpack. The Trout Derby is May 22, too late to distribute saplings. Marnie suggested that they could be handed out at the Garden Club Plant sale on May 8. The Girl Scouts are trying to organize troops to assist with the tree planting that the Woodlands Committee is having on April 24th.

3. Development Updates

Sunrise – Chris met with Borough Engineer and Sunrise landscape planner to discuss plantings. The Borough Engineer has been in contact with Sunrise. They will plant 18 trees and we asked them to plant in the spring. Pine Edge would like more arborvitae planted as a screening, but as these are not shade trees, they are not our responsibility.

Highview - We have requested greater details on the revised Landscape Plan. Tree planting in the median is on hold till we can work with NJ DOT.

Intervale Road and Route 46. - Chris and Sandy inspected the section of Intervale Road where JCP&L did extreme cutting. New Jersey passed a law that allows JCP&L to take down trees within the ROW. Cerbo's looked at the site and will submit a proposal, but the project may need to go out to bid. Parsippany Parks and Forestry might do the planting.

4. Honorary and Memorial Trees

Marnie drafted a revision for the website explaining the process of donating memorial and honorary trees and she also did an application for potential donors. With the Council's permission, the fee will be raised to \$350.

5. Ordinance Update

The Ordinance Subcommittee of Lucas, Andrew and Sandy met to discuss possible amendments to the tree ordinance to require replacement of trees removed in the commercial zones. At its last meeting, the Council suggested the STC investigate further amendments to the Tree Protection ordinance to include such tree replacement. The subcommittee will revisit in the fall. Lucas will write an outline of the subcommittee's suggested changes for Cynthia.

6. Tree City USA application has been sent along with the annual accomplishment report.

7. Liaison updates

MLHS Student Liaisons Jackie and Rebecca reported that so far, their tree project is on the back burner, because due to the pandemic the priority right now is to get everyone back in school full time. The environmental club has not met. Cynthia suggested that the student members draft a letter to businesses in town to let them know about the ordinance amendment that requires them to get a tree removal permit.

Environmental commission – wrote a letter regarding the Highview development, focusing on water issues.