

# Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting by Zoom

**Attending:** Chris Capodanno, Lucas Stelling, Sandy Batty, Marnie Vyff, Dan Amato

Student members: Jackie, Rebecca

Guests: Margo Gillespie, Kirk Swenson, Ellen Foppes, Catherine Hadjiloucas, Dena Muniz, Brianna Ostrosky, Jennifer Lynch, Brian Lynch

## 1. Administration

Margo Gillespie introduced herself and explained her interest in trees.

The February minutes were corrected to have the correct date in the heading.

## 2. Ordinance Update

The STC recommended to the Borough Council that Ordinance #102-36 scope be extended to require tree removal permits on all properties, commercial as well as residential. At its last meeting, the Council seemed in favor, and will be introducing the ordinance at its next meeting. Council members suggested further amendments to the Tree Protection ordinance to require commercial properties replace any trees removed. The Ordinance Subcommittee will meet to discuss possible changes.

## 3. Development Updates

**Highview** We have requested greater details on the revised Landscape Plan. Ellen Foppes suggested that if the large oak that they are taking down had been designated as a champion tree for NJ, it might have given us more bargaining power to get replacement trees.

Dena Muniz said we need a redevelopment plan for Route 46 to understand the whole picture and the other impacts in the town. The STC would like to know earlier in the process what is being planned and we would like copies of any revised plans submitted to the Borough.

**Intervale Road and Route 46.** JCP&L did extreme cutting in the right of way, which belongs to Mountain Lakes, and further into Parsippany property. The Borough Manager has been in contact with the JCP&L and will be meeting with Parsippany on this. We have contacted the Parsippany Environmental Commission, which is pursuing replanting.

New Jersey passed a new law that allows JCP&L to take down trees within the ROW. We should write to the manager of Whole Foods to ask for help with replanting. Probably we need to plant low growing trees and shrubs like rhododendrons.

**Sunrise** - Pine Edge would like more evergreens than what was proposed by Sunrise. The Borough Engineer has been in contact with Sunrise. Marnie asked to see any new plan.

## 4. Events

**Arbor Day** We are planning an Arbor Day celebration at Wildwood on April 30th. Phyllis will send information as soon as it is finalized. About 100 tree saplings will be given to students in one class. If we want to dedicate an honorary tree, we need to decide who to honor.

**Tree saplings** have been ordered for pickup on April 23rd. Phyllis may need help with pickup if we get the 850 we ordered. In the past, we have given saplings at the trout derby, but this is not

happening because of COVID. We need to advertise and make saplings available for residents outside the town. The saplings will be available to the community and Morris County residents on April 24th from 10am-1pm at the Mountain Lakes Fire house parking lot. Phyllis will be there to distribute and asked if anyone else would like to help.

The Girl Scouts are trying to organize troops to assist with the tree planting that the Woodlands Committee is having on April 24th.

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

#### **5. Liaison updates**

a. **MLHS** Student Liaisons Jackie and Rebecca met with the Principal to discuss locations for planting trees. They did not establish the number of trees or budget available. The Principal will discuss with Mr. Dunn and will stay in contact. Dan Amato will be working with the students on this. They also talked about planting in the courtyards, but there are a lot of restrictions on what can be planted there, because they can't be too tall. Maybe an ornamental tree will work.

b, **Woodlands** – Kirk Swenson said they are working on trail maps and signage. They appreciated STC ordering extra saplings.

**Other Business** Guests at the meeting said that Lake Arrowhead section of Mtn lakes is motivated to be involved in the Borough and ready to help the Shade Tree Commission as needed.