

Shade Tree Commission of Mountain Lakes – Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2017 6:00 p.m. Borough Hall

Members Present: Marnie Vyff, Sandy Batty, Chris Capodanno, Edwina Gasiser-Marchev, and Borough council Representative Lauren Barnett.

1. Marnie welcomed everyone to her first meeting as Chairperson. There was no public in attendance.
2. The new 2017 Borough Council Liaison, Lauren Barnett was welcomed.
3. **Minutes for December 2016:** tabled until members who attended can comment.
4. **Prune and Removals 2016:**
 - Marnie relayed that Consuelo met with the computer specialist and worked out the kinks in the database system. They still need to send an email to the group reverifying the steps to take to access the program.
 - There is no outstanding entering of data by STC members.
 - Sandy and Chris explained to Lauren how the database tree inventory works.
 - Consuelo will close all of 2015 open work orders and show Marnie how to do it.
 - Marnie will take Dan Dennison around and look at our list of DPW work to see if they can do it.
5. **Tree Planting 2016:** Sandy will contact DPW for watering schedule during the warmer months.
6. **Membership and roles for 2017:** With Janet Horst moving to Borough Council, the Shade Tree Commission is down a member. There are a few people who are possibilities. All are encouraged to recruit a possible good member.

Marnie invited members to take a new look at roles and change them if they desire for this year. She will discuss roles with the members not presently in attendance at the next meeting.

Roles as they presently stand are:

- **Marnie Vyff** - Chair, liaison to residents, Tree City USA, Arbor Day, CEU training to Pam Zipske, Memorial Tree List, Ordinances, Area VII
 - **Consuelo Murtagh** - Assist Marnie's transition, Print out P&R lists, EAB, Area III
 - **Heather Scott** - Secretary, Minutes, Area II
 - **Sandy Batty** - Tree planting, Free Trees, watering, ordinances, Area I
 - **Blair Bravo** - Website, membership, Area V
 - **Chris Capodanno** - Grants, ad hoc, Area IV
7. **Education Subcommittee Update:** Marnie, Chris, and Sandy relayed the success of the ongoing work with the Wildwood 4th Grade and Kindergarten students.

8. **Ordinances Update:** Sandy relayed her research on the Mountain Lakes tree ordinances and other town's ordinances to emulate, and suggested some improvements that could be made. Sandy and Marnie will make a list of possible improvements to these ordinances.
9. **Arbor Day & Free Trees 2017:** Marnie would like someone to take over or share Arbor Day & Free Trees. Sandy volunteered for Free Trees.
10. **Website Status:** Tabled to next month.
11. **Annual 2016 Reports:** Consuelo will complete the CFMP annual report. Marnie will write the Tree City USA report.
12. **Emerald Ash Borer Task Force (EAB) Update:** Consuelo and Chris Hasbrouch, the town arborist, will completed the town estimate of ash trees (3 or 4 hrs to be done by March). Chris C. will check the state website for their recommendations.
13. Consuelo has met with the Arborist, and completed the annual survey of arborist designated areas. The data still needs to be entered.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2017
@ 6pm. Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Marnie Vyff.