

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2021

Meeting by Zoom

Attending:

Chris Capodanno, Lucas Stelling, Sandy Batty, Marnie Vyff, Dan Amato, Phyllis Deering

Student Members: Rebecca Hirschfeld and Margaret Berei

Council Liaison: Cynthia Korman

1. Administration

September Meeting minutes were approved

The Arborist is scheduled to do Hazardous Tree Evaluation for areas outside of ROW and on Saturday Nov 5th Shade Tree Members are invited to an introduction and open Q&A.

In addition to covering how to evaluate hazardous trees, there will also be a discussion on invasive species including the Ailanthus/tree of heaven and Black Locust.

Committee discussed the negative effects of invasive species, and the benefits of natives.

2. Prune and remove.

Members are requested to finish their inventory walks and submit Prune & Remove orders.

Dan asked about trees in power lines and was told to put "JCP&L" in comment line.

We should mark trees for pruning with dots in fading paint and with "X" for those that need to be removed. The Board of Ed is responsible for maintaining trees on school property.

3. Kaufman Park

The Christmas tree in Kaufman Park is aging and has about 10 years left. Not all Christmas lights work and rehangng them will be very expensive. There is consideration that after Borough Hall construction is completed, a Christmas tree may be planted at that location. Cynthia said that the DPW committee has discussed and will ask the Borough Council for their opinion.

4. Training /CEUs

Dan completed the CORE training. Phyllis took a pruning course from Rutgers. No one is able to attend in person the NJ Shade Tree Federation (NJSTF) Annual Conference in Cherry Hill. We hope the Federation will offer a virtual option.

<https://www.njstf.org/upcoming-conference.php>

5. Development Projects and Applications

Sandy and Chris talked about the development application to the Planning Board at 333 Rt 46 W for an expanded parking lot. The STC discussed the draft memo on comments on the development and agreed to submit it to the Planning Board

6. Liaison Updates

Environmental Commission (Chris/Marnie) . Highview application asked for off-site laundry. Lake buffer will be encouraged around Wildwood to combat algae. The Commission asked for an EIS for the application at 333 Route 46 West.

Green Team Submitted application to Sustainable Jersey and waiting to hear if they got silver.

MLHS Students Hoping to speak at Wildwood about spotted lantern fly and tree of heaven. They will meet with the HS and Wildwood administration to ok the presentation. The audience depends on covid protocols: an assembly presentation might not be possible. If not, the HS students will consider an appropriate age group. Potentially could include the HS environmental club Cy said that they can talk to the ML Public Library as they have a grant to purchase environmental books and media.

MLHS Environmental Club is also planting a garden in the interior space at the HS. They want to plant a small native tree or perhaps a large shrub and also plant flowers. Committee is working closely with Bednar.

The MLHS club also wants to ask for Green Amendment on the ballot as an amendment to NJ Constitution. PA and Montana have adopted this. NY is considering it.

Council Update The Council will be discussing the policy on community resolutions to consider who can propose resolutions and how the Council will decide whether they should be adopted

7. 2021 Tree Planting

Lucas is pending any members input on new tree locations and requested any further be submitted. As the process to write to residents has not been effective, and involves heavy administrative time, it was agreed not to mail letters to residents about planting on any ROW's. Only locations on residents ROW that have previously agreed or requested will be considered. The Boulevard, which has many locations for planting. The price has gone up so we will not be able to plant as many trees this year.

8. Shade Tree Trust Fund (STTF)

Borough manager Mitchell Stern explained in an email that disbursements from the Trust Fund are based on recommendations of the STC to Borough Manager, CFO, and Council. The STC recommendations are subject to approval by Borough council and manager. Memorial tree donations go into the Shade Tree Trust Fund while the Boro agreed that Memorial tree planting are best to come out of the STC planting budget. It was requested to establish written procedures for allocating Shade Tree Trust Fund Funds.

Potential 2022 Tree Fund Purposes

Replanting the Intervale Road entrance to Mountain Lakes. Members discussed whether we should plant in the 9-foot ROW or up the hill. There was discussion on the ROW,

power lines, maintenance by Parsippany and Mountain Lakes, and overall this being one of a few key entrances to Mountain Lakes.

It was proposed to plant 3-5 trees in the ROW before planting on the slope above, and wait to see how the planting does. Commission voted in favor of planting trees in the Intervale ROW, as long as they were appropriate species for the location under the wires. STC also agreed to wait before any consideration of planting the mid-slope area. We will also ask Mayor Menard to follow up with Parsippany regarding planting at the top of the hill where the strip mall developer said they will plant 17 trees on their property and specifically the timing. We would also like to ask Parsippany to address the invasive species (Black Locust in particular) which have grown in the clear-cut area.

Route 46 Beautification The STC discussed if we could we use Shade Tree Trust Fund money for a \$3000 application and preparation to the state to plant in the median. The application information indicated that the DOT allows for shrubs and flowers, not shade trees, in the median. Our purpose is shade trees. The STC agreed that shrubs and flowers are beautification, which could be covered by environmental commission, Garden Club or other budget.

9. **Grants** for 2021/2022 Phyllis said there are no grants right now. Will look for next year.

Meeting adjourned