

**Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission**  
**Minutes January 11, 2023**

Present: Chris Capodanno, Lucas Stelling, Sandy Batty, Doren Greene (alternate)  
Chris Cannon, Council Liaison  
Margaret Berrei and Rebecca Hirschfeld, Student Members

Absent: Dan Amato, Cath Mitchell, Phyllis Deering, Marnie Vyff

**Minutes** from December meeting accepted as submitted.

**Annual Report** due to the DEP (Office of Urban Forestry requirement) Phyllis is working on the Tree City Application. Sandy noted that we have had the Tree City designation for over 25 consecutive years.

**Arbor Day** is on 4/28. Phyllis has worked with Wildwood School previously, and we hope that she will again. In the past we have given seedlings to students to commemorate Arbor Day. Sandy pointed out that seedlings might not be free and we may have to pay \$30 per 100. Lucas suggested that the Shade Tree Trust Fund could cover the costs. Additionally, Cerbo's will be charging more for tree planting.

Discussion about Seedlings: how many to order, when and where to distribute. It was suggested that we advertise in the Borough News Blast that the seedlings are available to increase awareness, as well as the right of homeowners to request trees planted in the right of way on their property. (Also advertise that we can plant trees in memory of residents or to honor them, and residents can pay the cost.) Further discussion about which date and location for seedling distribution would work. The day of stocking fish in Birchwood Lake for Trout Derby seems best. Doren will discuss this with Woodlands Committee, as they share this project with us, and report back next month.

**New Development** Application for a Storage Facility at the site of the old Hess gas station on Route 46 East. No trees will be removed from the front, but six will be planted.

Veterans Affordable Housing Plan – The Zoning board asked the developer to submit a street tree management plan and he asked what that was. Sandy pointed him to the ordinance that has the requirements. She is also checking with Cindy Shaw to recommend having a form that accompanies development applications.

**Liaison Reports**

**MLHS** liaisons said that the HS Environmental Club discussed plans for the rest of the year - Plant Sale for Valentine's Day, Recycling Campaign. They felt that the connection between the club and Shade Tree Commission was important and said there are several members who they think would be good student members for us in the future.

***Environmental*** - Chris reported on the committee has formed with representatives of several town committees and commissions to deal with landscape issues, including invasive plants, dumping on borough owned property, and noise and pollution from gas-powered leaf blowers. Doren has joined this committee as representative from Shade Tree and will report back after next meeting.

***Woodlands*** - Doren reported that construction of the West Shore Road Trail has been delayed, Deer cull was below expectations, bird blind in the Tourne is still being discussed, and communication has begun with Mitchell Stern about material and labor support for clearing select borough owned properties.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30