

## **Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Minutes October 12, 2022**

**Members attending:** Sandy Batty, Lucas Stelling, Chris Capodanno, Doren Greene, Cath Mitchell, Phyllis Deeing, Margaret Berei

**Intervale Trees.** DPW does not believe that the 4 trees that Cerbo's planted on Intervale Rd were in the ROW. Sandy will go back to measure. The DPW will clear around them this time but not in the future.

**Vines.** Residents have called with concerns about invasive vines growing on trees.

**Tree walks-** The arborist was contacted to review some trees that were identified as needing a professional opinion as to their condition.

**Pocket Parks-** Question came if Shade Tree is responsible for reporting trees in pocket parks on their inventory. Ordinances 9-6.E(1) and E(4) say that STC is responsible to regulate the care and maintenance of trees and shrubs in parks, as well as rights of way and public places.

**Signage** A member of the STC reported that many homes lack street numbers, which makes trees difficult to identify from the inventory. Cynthia will bring the issue of the lack of signage on homes to Council.

**Tree Planting-** Lucas will get on Cerbo's schedule to plant trees. Sandy will find out how much is in the budget to plant and let Lucas know.

STC members will inform residents in each area they manage of new tree locations and identifying planting placement with a flag. Lucas will give flags to STC members who need them.

**CEUs-**STC needs 8 CEU credits each year to remain certified. Sandy will attend a course to get 5. Cynthia took a course that may count for one CEU credit so we still need two more.

New **storm water regulations** effective January 2023 will require adoption of a tree removal and replacement ordinance. DEP will have a model we can use to draft the ordinance.

**Pruning** A recommendation was made that DPW be trained on proper pruning techniques. Trees on the Boulevard were not pruned properly. Borough manager assured it won't happen again. Council Liaison will mention this at DPW meeting and report back.

**STC priorities** for 2023 were discussed. They include drafting tree removal and replacement ordinance, community outreach and education, tree planting, and enforcing the ordinance of signage of homes.

Sandy will ask Community Church if we can plant trees in their parking lot.

**Liaison Updates-** High School is working on a botanical garden. They held a fall cleanup. They have an increase in membership

Environmental-Craig School development was discussed. A parking lot is proposed, but there may be wetland issues. Sandy submitted comments about relocating a tree near the main building and planting a tree near the new parking lot.

Woodlands- finished review of pocket parks. Suggestions were to make them look nicer.

STC changed term limits for students to 2 years starting in 2023.

STC has one alternate position open.

Phyllis will contact the students who are interested in joining the STC as student members and report back to the commission.