

# Shade Tree Commission of Mountain Lakes Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

## Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Minutes November 8, 2023

**Present:** Sandy Batty, Chris Capodanno, Chris Cannon, Doren Greene, Marnie Vyff, Catherine Mitchell, Julia Weiner: Student Member

**October 2023 Minutes-** Passed as submitted.

**Tree plantings** - 12 or 14 locations were requested by residents and Lucas is getting 30 trees from Cerbo's. More locations are available and Lucas will place all extras along the Boulevard. Members will revisit possibilities.

**Prune and Remove Reports** – Everyone got their reports in.

**Resident Prune Incentive** - Lucas had prepared a presentation explaining the Commission's interest in using our fund to incentivize pruning over removal of trees in setback areas. The Commission reviewed it, made corrections and agreed it's ready to present to Borough Council. Chris Cannon will set up a date for the presentation.

**CEUs** - Many members got needed CEUs this last month and will be reimbursed any fees. Sandy had gotten complimentary tuition for many who participated in the ANJEC classes.

**Budget** - Sandy had prepared the 2024 Budget Request. The Commission reviewed it and agreed to the changes. The new Community Forestry Management Plan is due in 2025 so that needed funds will be in the 2025 Budget Request.

### Liaison reports

**High School** - Julia has the Memorial Tree Certificates that Margaret gave her. Marnie met with her to show how it is done. Honorary/Memorial trees are now \$425.

Julia and Chris Capodanno have been working with the High School Principal and the Head of Grounds about possibly planting trees on school grounds. Beth Azar's Honorary Tree is slated to be planted on Wildwood grounds. There are complications dealing with school administration so Chris suggested he would reach out.

Julia suggested she have the Schools join The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus K-12. She gave the Commission the link to the site and the Commission will look at the program and discuss next month.

Marnie suggested Julia not do a Shade Tree Instagram page, but instead write articles for the Shade Tree section of the Mountain Lakes website where we don't have required work to update posts. The mulching issue is a good subject to start with. Chris Capodanno has taken photos she can use. It was also suggested we monitor the Borough's Facebook page for comments on trees and respond to them. Doren said she has been doing so already.

**Environmental Commission** - Chris Capodanno reported the EC is working on improving recycling at the High School. Briarcliff has excellent recycling and can be used as an example. Also, the Borough's EDAC Committee is doing a Survey on development possibilities.

**Woodlands Committee** - Doren reported they are working on possible new trails in the parks. Minutes taken by Marnie Vyff. The next meeting will be December 13, 2023.

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**Highlands** – Sandy reported the Borough Council will discuss the Highlands Plan this next Monday and encouraged everyone to attend.

**Other Business** – Sandy reported Phyllis has a connection to a woman from Rutgers who can do a presentation on the best tree species to plant in Morris County. Marnie suggested she could present to the Environmental Club and we could attend. Julia will ask the Club.