

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Meeting - December 13, 2023 7:00 PM

Present : Sandy Batty, Dan Amato, Chris Capodanno, Doren Greene, Lucas Stelling, Cath Mitchell

November 2023 Minutes : Passed as submitted

Tree Plantings : Lucas reported 33 trees were planted in the Borough, including 10 in front of residential properties, which is more than normal. Lucas suggested connecting with the property owners ahead of plantings because there was a misunderstanding with a tree removal, as well as scheduled plantings and call outs. Lucas also shared that a tree was scheduled to go in at Wildwood school in honor of Dr. Azar, but that was not communicated to the school, which led to some confusion and the tree was not planted. He recommended better communication overall going forward. Sandy inquired about space on the Boulevard, Lucas said there is room for another 40-60 trees, which we plan on planting in the coming years.

Prune and Remove : Sandy wanted some of the removals taken care of this year, so Sandy sent a list to Mitchell Stern and DPW of 10 of the highest priority removals. They are marked with signs, but we have not heard back from either at this point. Sandy is going to highlight the inventory notes from everyone for the arborist to review on Wednesday 12/20/23. When the arborist walked the trees previously around Birchwood Lake, they were GPS marked but Rich Tree, our removal service is not able to use GPS. Lucas asked for the list of marked trees so he can try to superimpose them onto google maps so we know where they are and so that we're not wasting resources pruning trees in the woods that aren't dangerous.

Arborist Visit : Chris, Doren, and Marnie will try to walk with the Arborist.

Pruning Incentive Presentation : Chris Cannon said he would discuss presenting the Pruning Incentive Program to the borough, but Sandy has not heard back. Sandy is going to follow up

NJ DEP Model Tree Removal and Replacement Ordinance : Sandy requested a review of the ordinance. Lucas, Sandy, and Dan agreed to become a sub-committee to review the ordinance, required by the state under the municipal stormwater permit.

Liaison Reports :

Environmental - Chris Capodanno, no updates

Woodlands - Doren said there is no chairperson for the Woodlands. Steve has resigned, and they're looking for a new chair.

Other : Sandy attended a course for CEUs on Invasive species and recommended that Woodlands review and address some of the invasive species that exist in town. Sandy asked that Doren bring it up to the Woodlands committee to gauge interest. Cath Mitchell offered to help support the Woodlands in their efforts to address the invasives. Wisteria and winged euonymus in particular seem to be of concern in town.

Discussed potentially meeting in person next month, nothing decided.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:34 PM

Minutes taken by Dan Amato 12/13/2023