

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2024 - 7 PM

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

Student Liaison : Julia Weiner

December 2023 Meeting Minutes - Passed as written

Recap of Arborist Walk – The arborist marked the trees around Birchwood. Chris and Sandy did a separate walk to look at the trees not inspected by the arborist. Discussion about some questions from the inventory. The arborist recommended cabling a large oak, but it's not clear if the Borough cables trees. Sandy will ask Mitchell. Lucas is still concerned over the split trunk on a tree in his area, though the arborist wasn't concerned about it. The arborist also trees identified a potential hazard tree that was on private property and not in the right-of-way. Chris mentioned that previously the STC would draft a letter and send it to the Borough Clerk so that and the town could communicate this situation to the homeowner. Chris sent Sandy a copy of the letter. Sandy and Dan discussed 247 Rock Ln because the Borough Manager said that the town doesn't own Rock Lane. Sandy and Dan agreed to meet later to sort and inform the property owner whether the tree belongs to Mountain Lakes or Boonton Township. Lucas mentioned another tree (348 Morris) should be monitored, based on the root system and the presence of fungi. Sandy may add to the list for removal.

Annual Reports : NJ DEP Community Forestry and Arbor Day Foundation - Sandy took a look at the report forms that need to be completed for 2023. Normally Phyllis completed the Arbor Day Foundation Report but she was not present at the meeting - Sandy will send a follow up email to Phyllis.

Arbor Day 2024 - Sandy will follow up with Phyllis on this. STC member Cath Mitchell offered assistance.

Seedling Distribution - Sandy will follow up with Phyllis on this as well. STC members Cath Mitchell, Dan Amato, Doren Greene all offered assistance with this if needed.

Presentation to Borough Council - Still pending, looking for an opportunity to present.

Liaison Reports:

High School - Environmental club met today (1/10) to discuss what to do in the future. They're running a clothing drive for sustainability. Julia offered posting information on the bulletin board at the high school. Arbor Day Foundation K-12 tree campus certification will likely need to be pushed to next year.

Environmental Commission - Nothing from Chris in Environmental, they haven't met.

Woodlands Committee - Possibly have a new chair, Doren will learn next week.

Other - Chris Capodanno asked who is the Borough Council liaison for the STC for 2024. Doren said we will learn at the re-org meeting. Sandy will reach out to Cara Fox to find out.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

Minutes Taken by Dan Amato - 1/10/24

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