

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Meeting  
February 13, 2024

Present: Sandy Batty, Lucas Stelling, Doren Greene, Phyllis Deering,  
Students Julia Weiner, Kalvin Lee (prospective member)  
Council Liaison Chris Cannon,

Absent: Marnie Vyff, Dan Amato, Cath Mitchell, Chris Capodanno

January Minutes accepted as submitted

**Annual reports:** Arbor Day Foundation: Phyllis sent to Mitchell Stern and he submitted it.  
DEP Community Forestry Report: Sandy completed, reported on usual activities, adding our  
“educational program”, the town-wide mailing in which we participated.

Next year hopefully the two reports will be combined and we will only have to submit one  
annual report. Our Community Forestry Plan needs to be updated in 2025.

**Arbor Day:** Phyllis said the new principal at Wildwood has not returned her emails, so she will  
phone him.

She has ordered 250 saplings, and will need at least 100 to distribute to Wildwood students,  
others can be distributed at the Trout Derby on April 20.

We will advertise the event, through the Borough Blast, Mountain Lakes Residents Facebook  
Page, and Library Bulletin Board.

Doren offered to do the pickup of the saplings in the morning of April 11, at Parsippany’s DPW  
office, which is in the Knoll Country Club.

**STC Website** could use some updating. All members asked to look at it and make comments,  
suggest new issues to post. Sandy has updated the cost of trees and our email address.

**Presentation to Council:** Chris Cannon has brought it up and some Council members seem  
wary of giving public funds to private citizens. We might stress that it can be a public safety  
issue. Perhaps we should broaden the discussion to the Shade Tree Trust Fund in general. We  
are likely to be scheduled for the first Council meeting in March.

**Liaison Reports:** *High School* - Julia reported the Environmental Club will be working with  
the Green Team for a fair in the Spring. She offered to help advertise the sapling distribution at  
morning announcements at the High School

*Woodlands Committee* Doren said Woodlands will be meeting next week, hopes to have a new  
chairman then. Expecting to present their plans with Morris County Parks Commission to the  
Borough Council in March to redo the Red Trail in the Tourne, perhaps same Council meeting as  
the STC.

**Additional Business:** Phyllis - New Rec director has asked about inventory of maple trees for  
possible sugaring project in town

Lucas asked Sandy about the tree replacement ordinance required by the NJ DEP under the Tier A - Municipal Stormwater General Permit (MS4). Mountain Lakes is in the Tier A category. Municipalities are required to adopt and enforce an ordinance covering tree removal/replacement, if they don't already have an ordinance that meets the requirements. The ordinance is supposed to be adopted by May 1. The STC ordinance subcommittee needs to look at our existing tree removal ordinance versus the DEP model. we don't have tree replacement element.

Sandy and Lucas planned to meet Friday and Sandy will see if Dan can join them.

Kalvin Lee (potential second student member) told us he's interested in engineering, technology and their intersection with environment. He could be very helpful with our website, perhaps uploading videos, etc.