

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Meeting by Zoom

Attending: Chris Capodanno, Sandy Batty, Phyllis Deering, Marnie Vyff, Dan Amato
Margaret Berej, student members
Cynthia Korman, Council member

1. Administration

November 2021 meeting minutes were passed as written.

2022 Membership. Council member might change. We need additional members and will put a notice in the Borough Blast.

Chris nominated Sandy as Chair and Dan as Vice Chair and the members voted in favor. Marnie will serve as secretary and take minutes.

2. Donation & Memorial Trees Certificates

The Borough has a new form to be completed for donation of honorary or memorial trees. We need clarification on the accounting for these donations. We currently create a certificate for any donation. The STC budget covered 39 trees, but this does not include honorary trees. We need to find out if the cost of donated trees is taken out of the Shade Tree Trust Fund, because that is where donations are deposited.

In addition, the Borough gives honorary trees for Citizen of the Year and the Janice Hunts Lifelong Service awards. The Borough will do the certificates, but we will check to see if these two trees are in addition to the ones the STC already planted and paid for from its budget. We also need to clarify if the DPW will be planting these two trees. We need to update the list of the Honorary and Memorial Trees on the website. Phyllis will accept responsibility for the certificates in the future, with Margaret's help. They will meet with Marnie to discuss.

We issue a certificate for memorial/honorary trees. We have a form that the donor can complete regarding their preference for tree location and species and the wording on the certificate. Then after planting we tell them the location of the tree. For general donations to the Tree Fund, we do either a certificate or a thank you letter.

3. Budget Request 2022

Chris completed the budget request. The Budget includes training so we should remember to have the Borough pay for any courses we attend that meet the requirement for CEUs.

4. Development

Route 46 Beautification Update. The STC believes that the regulations prohibit trees, but allow shrubs and ground cover in the median. Jackie Bay said her contact at the NJDOT will try to get trees approved. She has asked Council to submit an application and said the application fee doesn't apply right now. She requested that the STC contribute funds from the Shade Tree Trust Fund for the median trees. The Borough Manager

questioned whether Route 46 needs to be shut down when the trees or shrubs are planted.

Environmental Commission currently is the lead in the median proposal, but if a beautification committee is established, it might take it on.

5. **Kaufman Park tree** holiday lights will be restrung. The arborist's recommendation is to have deep root feeding, which will be done at a later date. We should consider planting a spruce at Borough Hall once construction is completed, and also Island Beach or the Esplanade.

6. **Liaison Updates**

Green Team Marnie said Mtn Lakes made silver award. Looking for a larger grant and discussing options.

MLHS Students Finished student garden for the winter. Will be planting next Spring. Wildwood event not yet scheduled. Env Club doing a fundraiser to pay for trash removed from the ocean. Margaret is doing Instagram for the club.

7. **Tree Planting** Next year we need to figure out what we are going to do with the Tree Fund. We need to reach out to the residents to ask if they would like to have a tree planted. Council will take recommendations of the STC, but they don't have to accept.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.