

Thursday Jan. 09, 2020

**Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Chris Capodanno; Marnie Vyff; John Briggs; Lucas Stelling
Brett Lane; Phyllis Deering; Lauren Barnett (Council Liaison)

Absent:

Sandy Batty; Jacqueline Edwards

1. Minutes from December meeting approved.
2. Membership. Current term is 5 year for the STC. We will await Council's approval (on January 27, 2020) for confirmed membership. Lauren has been confirmed. We need 2 alternates. Lauren will post to Eblast. We have representation from Woodlands and Environmental. It would be good to have someone from one of Lakes, Planning, or Economic Development.
3. Prune and Remove. The 2019 list was submitted to Mitchell. It was received in time for the 2019 money allocation. The list was somewhat less than the past 2 years. The Borough has \$35k in the 2020 budget for Ash Tree removal. We need to confirm whether the Ash trees marked on the paved path between the schools have been removed. If not, this \$35k could be used for that.
4. We would like to identify a group (Borough) email address for communication between the Borough and us, or residents and us.
5. Chris, Sandy and Lucas drove around the Borough with the NJ State Forester (Michael Martini). We asked about tree management programs. One program seemed to have potential however the cost involved may be prohibitive. John, Brett and Lucas will form a subcommittee to determine whether we can put together an excel spreadsheet program to catalog our inventory, become user friendly, and create a Google Docs system.
6. Chris, Sandy and Marnie are meeting with Mitchell tomorrow at 11 to discuss STC access issues (to DPW).
7. Roles: Chris put together a one page spreadsheet. It will be included with these minutes.

- a. Ryan Dunn is now working as the facility manager for BOE. He would like to meet with STC and develop a plan for the Borough BOE property. Lucas will meet with Ryan. The tree that went in front of Briarcliff was dedicated to the Borough Citizen of the Year, Blair Bravo.
 - b. Cerbos has offered to come to our next meeting (February 12th). They will share what they grow, how they plant, best practices, planting in the setback (happening in other towns), etc. This would be excellent. They would also like to have us to a tour of their facility.
 - c. Tree City USA. The 2020 application (in recognition of what was completed in 2019) is due now. Phyllis and Marnie will sort out the application.
 - d. Brett: Tree planting and promotion; Community Education (Website, etc.).
8. Birchwood Parking Lot
- a. No plan is currently.
9. Brett presented his initial thinking on “1000 Trees in a Decade”. The gist of this program would be to plant 1000 trees over the next decade on private land within the Borough. The following items were introduced and briefly discussed in conjunction with Brett’s Power point presentation:
- a. Private land is the focus as without addressing planting on private land it is difficult to imagine that we could keep the ML tree canopy intact;
 - b. Do we/should we, as STC, have any role to play in planting on private land?
 - c. Is this solely an STC project? Woodlands? Environmental Committee? All?
 - d. Can we/should we set up a ‘not for profit’ to try to fund this program?
 - i. How difficult is it to set up a nfp?
 - ii. Is there funding out there?
 - iii. Should we pursue funding or should home owners self-fund?
 - e. Tie in to Legacy Tree proposal from Bob Dewing?
10. Next meeting:
- a. Chris will send out an email.