

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2020

Attending: Chris Capodanno, Marnie Vyff, Lucas Stelling, Brett Lane, Sandy Batty, and Council liaison Lauren Barnett

Minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

Membership. We learned with regret that John Briggs will be moving out of town. The STC has openings for 1 regular and two alternate member positions.

Tree Planting / Tree Loss – Chris reported that over the last 3 years Mountain Lakes lost about 300 trees and 71 trees were planted by the Borough. We need to encourage residents to plant on their properties. Chris will ask Cerbo's if they will offer the Borough to price to residents. If they will, we could send out a flier announcing this to all residents. The homeowner would make the arrangement directly with Cerbo's. The flier will also say that if the resident wants a tree in the right of way in front of their property they should contact the STC because the Borough will pay for the tree. We will ask Cerbo's to keep a record of the trees planted on residential properties.

Budget. We have \$12,500 in the budget for planting new Trees. All Members will send to Lucas idea's for new planting sites.

P&R Walks 2020 – The Inventory Database will be converted to an Excel file kept on the Cloud. Marnie, Chris, and Brett will decide on the fields that we want to keep from the Access data file. It will include Future Planting Sites. With the departure of one member Lucas will shift to take Area 6 while Lucas and Marnie jointly cover Area 2.

Website Updates. Brett talked to Mitchell about the website. The Borough website uses Word Press, which is not an easy program. Mitchell offered to work with the vendor to get the changes we want.

Arbor Day The Borough Council passed Proclamation for Arbor Day resolution on April 13.

Training and CEU's Sandy has attended 2 online courses and will send out the link for a third.

Saplings Sandy will ask Phyllis if she knows of any saplings we might obtain to pass out to residents. Also, Sandy will find out if we got a seedling from the Salem oak.

Tree Fund Chris had emailed to the STC a model ordinance for setting up a Shade Tree Trust Fund. Lauren reported that the Borough has a Trust Fund, currently at \$4,400. Some questions about the tree fund that Lauren will ask Mitchell and Monica, CFO are:

How does STC know what's in the fund?

How does a resident make a check out to designate a donation to the tree fund?

Are there formation documents around the trust fund?

These items will be reviewed further for any recommendations as appropriate

Beach renovations. Lauren said she would like tree recommendations for the Birchwood parking lot islands. John Briggs had pointed out the power lines over the parking lot. Lauren would like to meet with STC members to designate spots for trees. Lucas, Marnie and Chris will join Lauren on Sunday to consider what trees and their locations.

Chris will ask Mitchell about trees for Island Beach. Lauren recommended waiting until June for the project to be finished and the swing set installed, before the STC recommends spots for trees. Lauren will confirm with Mitchell that the new trees at Island will be part of the renovation budget, not part of our planting budget.

Next Meeting June 10, 7 PM. Perhaps ask Tony Cerbo to next meeting to ask about the residential program, and their tree farming.