

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 2015 8:30 am Borough Hall

Members Present: Consuelo Murtagh, Marnie Vyff, Janet Horst, Tom Caine, Heather Scott

Borough Liason: Frank Borin

1. Comments from the Public: Welcome to Sandy Batty. Sandy discussed her background and retirement. Sandy states she is interested in joining the Shade Tree Commission. Consuelo will email a request to Sandy for her background to share with the Borough Council at their next meeting to formalize her joining the STC.

2. Minutes for January 2015 were reviewed and approved. Tom Caine will post meeting minutes to Borough website.

3. Lorraine Konopka has accepted an Arborist position in Princeton, NJ. Mountain Lakes Borough will need to find a new Certified Arborist. Consuelo shared history of efforts to identify a certified arborist for the Borough taken by STC back in March 2014. Ms. Konopka submitted a proposal to the Mountain Lakes Borough Manager to write a CMFP (Community Forestry Management Plan) and consult on any tree related concerns affecting the Borough. The Borough Council voted on approval of her proposal but a contract was never signed. Frank Borin was informed of STC'S multiple requests and efforts to have action taken to accept and sign the contract with this provider. However, to date no action was taken. Frank Borin agreed to look into this matter and advise STC. Frank is aware of the critical nature of this situation as the report needs to be approved before the current plan expires in December 2015, thereby losing the Borough's liability protection provided by a CFMP.

4. Consuelo Murtagh wrote a GCG, (Green Communities Grant), to help underwrite for the expenses of a Certified Tree Expert. Grant needs signatures from Acting Borough Manager and should be ready for mailing shortly.

5. Approximately 40 people attended the Garden Club meeting on January 28th. Lorraine Konopka spoke about our trees. Consuelo and Lorraine discussed the Borough tree canopy. Consuelo spoke specifically about the Shade Tree Commission. Garden Club members expressed ambiguities regarding pocket parks and their management. Sandy Batty attended and found the meeting informative.

6. Marnie discussed Arbor Day, and asked for volunteers to help. This year Arbor Day will be the kick off for an environmental weekend/clean up day in Mountain Lakes. STC discussed a potential honoree for the event on Friday April 23rd.

7. Other: It was suggested STC invite Joe Malaney, the Borough's new zoning enforcement officer, to the next Shade Tree Commission meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 am.

Next meeting March 13th, 2015

Respectfully submitted: Heather Scott