

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 2015 6:00p Borough Hall

Members Present: Consuelo Murtagh, Marnie Vyff, Janet Horst, Chris Capodanno, Jay Eveleth

1. Comments from the Public: none.
2. Minutes for September 2015 were approved with minor corrections.
3. In an effort to improve STC members' tree identification skills, the following leaves were presented: Catalpa, Shag Bark Maple, Sweet Gum and American Elm.
4. The new meeting time was confirmed: second Thursday of each month starting at 6pm. Blair Bravo is to update the STC website.
5. The first draft of the 2015-2020 Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) is anticipated at October-end authored by Kris Hasbrouke, borough arborist. Kris' \$4,500 consulting fee also covers the cost of inspecting the borough's parks and school grounds, noting any trees in these areas requiring pruning and/or removal. Kris and Consuelo met to inspect a number of borough trees in questionable health. Three trees previously noted for removal were taken off that list. This savings more than covered Kris' fee of \$200 for a minimum, two hour consultation.
6. STC was awarded a 2015 Green Communities Grant. Funds from the grant are designated to defray 50% of the total cost of updating the CFMP for 2015-2020, (see (5) above) or \$2,250.
7. Janet and Heather completed their 2015 fall tree surveys. STC members are to have their surveys completed and the *Tree Inventory 2000* system updated by October-end. The resulting *Prune and Remove* reports will be sent to Borough Manager, Rich Sheola, for review and bid submission. Consuelo has been asked to meet with Rich this November/ December to discuss 2015-16 STC goals and concerns. Time will be allocated at the next meeting to brainstorm for this event.
8. CORE training requirements for this year will be met by Sand Batty attending The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation's 90th Annual Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, October 23rd and 24th.
9. STC's Continuing Education Units (CEU's) have been (or will be) met by Consuelo (4), Heather (2) and Sandy (2). STC is required to obtain 8 CEU credits per year.
10. Four new trees will be planted this fall along Boulevard. Members were asked to submit their planting ideas to Consuelo in the next 1-2 weeks.
11. Consuelo continues to work on assigning duties to balance the work, and to allow for some specialization, among STC members. e.g. Arbor Day planning, minute taking and website management.

Next meeting: November 12, 2015, 6 pm Borough Hall

Respectfully submitted: Janet Horst