

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2021

Meeting by Zoom

Attending:

Regular Members:

Chris Capodanno, Lucas Stelling, Sandy Batty, Marnie Vyff, Dan Amato, Andrew Armani

Student Liaisons:

Rebecca Hirschfeld

Margaret Berei

Administration

- a. The June meeting minutes were approved as written
- b. Chris welcomed new student member Margaret Berei
- c. We have an Open Position for an Alternate Member.

2. Pests & Invasive Species Risk Management

- a. Spotted Lanternflies (SLF) have been sighted in ML. Squash them if you see them and remove egg masses. The SLF like Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) which is invasive, so the STC discussed how to tackle the trees. They should not be chopped down, unless an herbicide is applied on the stump. We should work with the Woodlands Committee on addressing ailanthus in our wooded parkland. Information has been posted on the main Borough Website as well as the Shade Tree Commission Website.
- b. Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer – As members do their inventory walks, they should continue to note locations of stressed ash trees. Members said that they haven't seen ash trees that need to be taken down. A good app to use to identify trees is "Picture This."

3. Tree Walks for Inventory & Prune/Remove Work Orders

Members reported they are working on their inventories. Chris asked them to complete and submit updated Excel File by September 30th.

4. 2021 Tree Planting

We are planning to plant 48 new trees in 2021, including replacements this year. Lucas contacted Cerbos to schedule and provide locations. Members are asked to identify new tree locations in the ROW and email Lucas a list of possible spots. Lucas will visit with homeowners in October in lieu of mailings. Please consider placement, avoiding areas with overhead power lines. If possible, ask the homeowner if they would like a tree.

We will plant a trees in front of the High School now that construction is done and continue planting on the Boulevard in addition to the ROW of Residents. It was suggested we put an item in the Borough blast asking property owners if they want to have a tree.

Tree Fund has approximately \$18,000 right now and we are receiving new contributions for memorial, honorary trees and general donations. In the next meeting further discussion can take place on the process to spend from the fund related to Fee's and donations.

5. Liaison Updates

Green Team has submitted the application for Silver certification with all the actions. About 50 of the 300 points needed came from Shade Tree Commission actions. Janet Horst got a grant for a seed library to be housed at the Public Library.

NJ Climate Resiliency Chris emailed reference regarding climate change before the meeting. Cold hardiness zones may have changed with the warming climate. Marnie will send information. Chris suggested a possible joint ML Committee/Commission Session (Shade Tree, Environmental, Woodlands, Lakes) on climate change. NJ is working on engaging on how to manage resiliency with climate change and local community engagement. Water and Air Quality are both very dependent on our Tree Canopy.

Student Update High School Environmental Club organizing cleanups and planting at the botanical garden. Also it may do education programs on trees at Briarcliff or Wildwood.

6. Training

NJ Shade Tree Federation Training and CEU (Continuing Education Unit) Hours

a. NJ Shade Tree Federation (NJSTF) Annual Conference Oct 21/22 Cherry Hill in Person
<https://www.njstf.org/upcoming-conference.php>

b. Continuing Education (CEU) Courses
<https://urbanforestry.rutgers.edu/njucfce/continuing-education-opportunities.html>

7. Development Updates

Planning Board has approved the Highview Commercial application at the Zeri's lot. Sunrise had evergreens replaced.

8. Memorial trees

Information on the STC website needs to be updated and Marnie will address with the Boro

Meeting adjourned