

Shade Tree Commission Minutes of September 9, 2020

Members present: Chris Capodanno, Sandy Batty, Lucas Stelling
Student members: Rebecca Hirshfeld, Jackie Edwards,
Guest: Andrew Armani

The July Meeting Minutes approved as written, moved by Chris and seconded by Lucas. All in favor.

Lauren got the caliper and vests from DPW. They are in her garage for members to pick up.

Chris introduced Andrew Armani, who is interested in joining the STC. He explained he is a veterinarian, was a biology major, and has always been interested in trees. He has lived in ML for two years.

2. Tree Inventory Database & Work Order System. Chris showed the new excel sheet for the tree inventory. We should use it to enter this year's data.

Members discussed whether to note the removed trees on the inventory and if the removal information should be updated every year. The commission will decide how to enter removals so that the information is consistent.

3. Prune & Remove Status 2020 Members have been doing their walks. We need to finish up in the next month.

We don't have a member to cover the area above Morris, so this needs to be done. Chris will contact Marnie to see if she has the sheets for this area.

4. Tree Planting 2020 Lucas has been looking for locations for trees in the rights of way. Our budget allows for planting as many as 40 trees. The new trees don't include those at Island Beach, which had tree planting in its construction budget, but does include the Birchwood parking lot. Lucas will give the list of potential sites to Mitchell so that a letter can go out to homeowners to inquire about their interest.

5. Development Projects Island Beach - Lauren said the swing set location has not been set. The planning committee will formalize Island locations at the next DPW meeting in September. Then the Council will ratify.

Route 46 Landscaping Improvement Committee The Environmental Commission and members of the STC will meet on Sept. 15th at 1pm to discuss improving landscaping on Route 46. EC and STC will collaborate on a landscape plan.

The Wawa application is scheduled to be on the Planning Board on Sept. 27. The developer wants an in-person meeting, so it will be at the Mansion, which can accommodate the crowd with social distancing.

Residential Planting Program. The Borough Manager indicated it would be difficult to use the Borough purchasing for private properties. All Borough contracts have to go out for bid. The Sunrise Assisted Living paid about \$14,000 for trees removed. Sandy will draft a letter for STC to ask the Council for the money to be deposited in the Tree Trust Fund. The letter should be sent in time for the Sept 28th Council meeting.

Community Engagement, Awareness, Marnie and Brett will be doing a flier, but maybe we should delay sending, because the purchasing program is in limbo.

6. Board of Education Property Plan Chris/Lucas contacted the BOE, but haven't gotten replies so far. We need to get together with BOE to develop a planting program.

7. Training

- Core Training 2020. October 20-23, 2020. 11am-Noon 5-6pm. Sept 25th Registration https://www.njstf.org/upcoming-conference.php?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- Continued Education Units (CEU's) Chris will check with Marnie to find out how many we need. Lucas will check his schedule to see if he can attend the Core Training. Maybe Andrew can go too.

8. Liaison updates

MLHS Student Liaison (Jackie/Rebecca) HS is all virtual, which makes it difficult to accomplish things. Rebecca would like to see planting in the courtyards as part of the new construction to give the campus a parklike feel. The HS environmental club and the STC can work together to encourage this.