

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2014

8:30 am Borough Hall

Members Present: Consuelo Murtagh, Marnie Vyff, Janet Horst, Tom Caine, Heather Scott, Jay Eveleth
Borough Council Liason: Peter Holmberg

1. Public guest today, Joan Best.
2. The minutes from November and December 2013 were approved. The minutes from January and February 2014 were approved.
3. Arbor Day recognition will take place Friday April 25, 2014 1:45 pm at Wildwood School. Heather Carr will be recognized as Volunteer of the year with a maple tree to be planted near Martin's Lane in her honor. Janet reports she and Marnie met with the Wildwood School Principal to discuss the all school program where children and their families will be invited to "Where the Wildwood Thing Are" a school production including costumes to celebrate Arbor Day. Tree City USA criteria will be looked at to determine the exact proclamation, ads, marquees etc. necessary to meet criteria for Tree City USA certification on Arbor Day. Marnie has information for ordering seedlings for the Arbor Day celebration.
4. Grant updates for Sustainable Jersey were discussed. The grant monies would be used for an updated tree inventory management system. The new system would be part of the next 5 year STC plan which begins December 2015. Sustainable Jersey grants are awarded in \$2,000, \$10,000, and \$20,000 increments, and are sponsored by PSE&G and Walmart. Janet suggested STC consult with Lorraine Konopka, Borough Certified Tree Expert, to determine if i-Tree warrants a \$10,000 grant.
5. Marnie stated our CFMP provides points for Sustainable Jersey and Green Team currently at 110 points. In the past, Mountain Lakes has held a Bronze Certificate with 155 points.
6. Other: Joan, who is retiring from the Borough DPW as of December 31, 2014, updated Peter Holmberg, Borough Council liaison, on STC, Community Forestry with the State, and the survey of all Borough trees. Joan explained the Borough funded 200 trees planted thru Cerbo's. The trees were grown over a 3 year period and planted in the Borough right of ways for \$175 per tree. Additional trees were planted at schools. Two years of October storms caused much tree loss. Joan referred to chapter 9 in Borough code which states STC in charge of R.O.W. trees. The Woodlands Committee is in charge of remaining large areas consisting of parks and pocket parks. Peter Holmberg suggested STC meet with Lorraine and Bob Tovo to discuss the vacancy when Joan retires. Peter agreed a council discussion necessary to discuss the policy and roles of STC, Woodlands, and property owners. Peter asked STC to lay out what is happening now, and what STC will look like in 18 months when Joan retires. Marnie suggested we write an article to educate the Borough about STC, including the information we learn from Lorraine our Certified Tree Expert. The Borough budget for work by an Arborist is \$5,400.
7. Peter Holmberg asked about the number of STC members, our ideal membership is 7 members with 2 alternates. Peter stated he would check with Borough volunteers to see if someone a fit STC Committee. Peter stated Mountain Lakes clean up day happening over same weekend as Arbor Day. Tom suggested we have a sign up binder available on Arbor Day for citizens to sign up and volunteer for weekend activity and clean up. Janet suggested we not have young children in the pocket parks due to poison ivy.

8. Heather and Janet will attend mandatory CORE training given by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection-Division of Parks and Forestry in October of 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am. **Next Meeting April 10th, 2014.**

Respectfully submitted: Heather Scott