

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024

Present: Sandy Batty, Lucas Stelling, Doren Greene, Dan Amato, Student Liaisons - Louise Minter, Calvin Lee

September Meeting Minutes: Passed as written

Tree Walks (ROW Inspections): Most walks are complete, but a few members need to get their notes to Sandy. Dan still needs to enter his notes.

Tree Removal/Plantings in ROW: Sandy got an email from a property owner on Condit. Trees at the property scheduled to be removed were in the ROW and were trees the STC previously planted. The landscaper removed the trees before STC could intervene. Later, arborvitae was planted around the edge of the property - potentially in the ROW. STC needs to follow up to see if the new plantings are in compliance with the ordinance.

STC discussed potential enforcement and follow up options.

Arborist: Sandy reached out to two new potential arborists. Sandy asked Mitchell if he knows of any arborists - Mitchell said that he would leverage his contacts to see if he could find another arborist.

Tree Planting Publicity: STC will put something in the Borough blast.

CEUs: Sandy shared that STC member Marnie Vyff registered for a workshop to earn CEU credits - Autumn dendrology workshop - Trees at Duke Farms. Sandy also shared that between the ANJEC meeting, Dan's attendance of the ordinance webinar, and Marnie's attendance at the workshop, the STC should be caught up on CEUs requirements for the year. STC also discussed bringing in a presenter to our meeting to earn CEUs next year.

Development Application - Starbucks: STC discussed the landscaping plan of the proposed Starbucks on 46. STC needs to provide comments by October 31, 2024.

Japanese Knotweed: Mitchell forwarded to the STC a resident complaint regarding the invasive Japanese knotweed. This is outside of STC responsibility. Lucas suggested recommending training DPW on learning how to flame torch it as opposed to treating it with chemicals. Sandy advised the inquiring homeowner that next steps are up to the Borough since it will take an investment to address.

Liaison Reports -

High School - Nothing to report. Louise suggested starting an environmental club at Morris Knolls.

Woodlands Committee - Nothing to report.

Other Business: N/A

Meeting concluded at 7:55 PM EST

Minutes taken by Dan Amato