

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission
February 12, 2025

Present : Sandy Batty, Dan Amato, Cath Mitchell, Doren Greene, Phyllis Deering, Tom Menard, Louise Minitier, Roxanne Tavakkol

Approval of December Minutes - Approved as written. (one small grammatical correction)

Public Presentation on Trees - April 2, 2025 7 PM at Borough Hall with Jean Epiphan, of the Rutgers Environmental Extension speaking to the general public. May be able to apply for CEUs as part of this meeting, which would satisfy the ML STC obligation for this year if all members attend. Intending on inviting other towns, and other groups/clubs/commissions in town as well. STC needs to generate a flyer - something to post of the website and circulate electronically. Will ask Marnie Vyff if she is able to design the flyer, as she has done other graphics previously. Roxanne mentioned inviting the ML Garden Club as well. Space may be an issue as Borough Hall can hold roughly 50 people. STC member Doren Greene offered to manage the RSVP list. Roxanne offered to connect with the Recreation department to see if we can utilize an online RSVP system in lieu of the email RSVP effort.

Community Forestry Management Plan - Every 5 years, STC is supposed to submit a plan. STC has been granted 2 extensions for our 2016 plan, which is now due in 2025. Sandy reached out to the prior consultant, who has retired. He recommended John Linson, who submitted a proposal for \$6,000 to prepare the plan. DEP offers a grant for \$5,000 for a plan, with the Borough is responsible for 25% match. A grant proposal will need to be submitted. STC member Phyllis said that the consultant should submit on STC's behalf. Phyllis offered to work on the plan/grant process. STC needs to resolve if this is part of the budget already or not. Tom will follow up with Lauren to see if this has already been handled. Sandy will share the 2016 report with the STC.

Community Forestry Annual Report - Sandy has been working on this. This is due on 2/15/25.

Tree City Report - Phyllis has been working on this. This is also due 2/15/25. Still need to submit to Mitchell for sign off (or alternative representative). Phyllis had a question about the number of trees that had been pruned - this is information required in the application. Sandy reviewed the work orders and Phyllis pointed out the detail in the work orders. Phyllis will fill in and submit by Friday 2/14/25.

Arbor Day Celebration - Date and Seedling Order - Phyllis and Cath agreed to organize the Arbor Day celebration effort this year. Phyllis shared that the free saplings STC used to get are no longer available. Saplings are available to purchase at \$75 a box - STC will need 3 boxes for \$225 total. Phyllis will report back once she's been in touch with the principal at Wildwood.

Liaison Report -

High School - Louise was looking into starting an environmental club, but the deadline had passed in August. Will look at starting one next year.

Other Business - Welcome Roxanne! (Current Garden Club President)

Meeting concluded at 7:40 PM

Minutes Taken by Dan Amato