

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission
April 9, 2025

Present: Sandy Batty, Dan Amato, Tony Forman, Doren Greene, Marnie Vyff, Phyllis Deering, Brianna Ostrosky, Cath Mitchell

Approval of March Minutes: Passed as written.

Discussion on Going to Cerbo's in Newton: STC discussed taking a field trip to Cerbo's Nursery in Newton, or at Jean Epiphan's recommendation, Pinelands Nursery for their commitment to native species of trees. Cath Mitchell and Briana Ostrosky agreed to team up on the planting process in the fall. STC briefly discussed current open spots for plantings in town - will revisit after the annual inventory tree update in the summer.

Tree Inventory - 2024 Recommendations and Future Area Responsibilities: STC discussed taking tree inventory areas for the summer tree walks. New STC member Tony Forman will be taking area 4, and new STC member Roxanne will be taking area 6. All other STC members will take the same. STC discussed keeping an eye out for trees that have been removed this year. STC member Dan agreed to work on the excel file inventory to make it easier for the STC to navigate their areas.

Arbor Day Celebration - Date & Speakers: STC member Phyllis met with the Wildwood Elementary Principal - Arbor Day celebration date is still up in the air because Arbor Day occurs during the planned spring break week. The celebration will likely be in early May. Phyllis shared that safety is a concern this year, and the actual location of the arbor day celebration is still pending as well. Music, poster contest, mayor reading the proclamation, all other activities will still happen as normal. STC discussed honoring former STC member Lucas for his years of service and tree planting. Phyllis agreed to reach out to Lucas.

Seedling Order: Cath discussed following up on the seedlings, but the free ones no longer exist. Phyllis shared that we will have to purchase seedlings, and agreed to follow up in acquiring them this year for Arbor Day distribution.

Public Presentation on Trees - Recap: Excellent presentation from Jean Epiphan, very well received in town. STC discussed learnings and actions they can take with our own trees - remove gator bags, remove stakes where possible. All CEUs are accounted for.

Turf Field Plan: No update on the turf field progress. STC would still like to see the potential tree removal impact.

Liaison Report: No high school liaison present at the meeting

Other Business: Marnie mentioned that the Green Team will have a table at the trout stocking.

Meeting Concluded at 8:00 PM
Minutes taken by Dan Amato