

Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission
December 10, 2025

In Attendance: Sandy Batty, Dan Amato, Cath Mitchell, Phyllis Deering, Tony Forman, Roxanne Tavakkol, Student Liaison Calvin Lee

Approval of November Minutes - Minutes corrected, minor grammatical change as identified by STC member Tony Forman. Passed as corrected.

Community Forestry Management Plan Consultant - STC member Roxanne connected with two different consultants (Davey Tree Resources and Bartlett Tree Service). The consultant from Davey was unable to attend the planned meeting but re-scheduled for December 11, 2025. The Bartlett Tree employee that showed up to the Zoom call was not prepared to discuss and was actually a field worker, and ultimately Bartlett suggested rescheduling for a meeting in January.

Tree Planting - New trees planted throughout Mountain Lakes, to be added to the inventory. Highlights are at Borough Hall, Island Beach, and Lyman Wilson Park across the street from the Fire House. The Borough Hall trees were part of the construction plan, and the money for the trees is coming from the ST trust fund because a donation was made into the fund to pay for those trees.

Tree for Wildwood Principal - Do not have a tree for the Wildwood Principal. STC needs to follow up, possibly with the School Board or grounds manager.

Recap of Zoom Presentation on Beech Leaf Disease - STC member Tony Forman recapped the Zoom presentation for the STC. Discussed the disease, how it affects the leaves (the veins of the leaves turn brown and die), discussed two potential treatments - injections and spray-on treatment, the pros and cons of each. Highlighted that there may be companies offering treatment services that aren't being effective. Tony noted that it's typically only the American Beech trees that have been infected. Treatment is not practical in a forest setting, but for homeowners as one offs, treatment could be possible.

Items for Borough Blast - STC discussed posting the Beech Leaf Disease information on the STC website so that residents have access to information, treatment options, etc.

Arbor Day Celebration - STC discussed past instances of Arbor Day celebrations, and how best to approach interacting with the students going forward, as well as logistics around timing and the school breaks.

Morristown STC Get Together (Planned for Saturday 1/10/2026, 1 PM) - STC discussed attending and carpooling just to see what other STCs are doing.

Other Business - 2024 Prune and Remove work has been completed. STC member Sandy connected with Lauren Barnett to confirm this. 2025 inventory prune and remove is still being worked through. STC member Roxanne inquired about following up in the Spring to validate that prune and remove items have been addressed.

STC member Calvin is scheduled to meet with Ian Matty at the Mountain Lakes library immediately following the December STC meeting to discuss designing and creating plaques for the trees in Lyman Wilson Park. Calvin also had the idea to add QR codes to scan to learn more about the trees and discussed ways to get the kids more involved with the trees in the park.

Meeting Concluded at 8:05

Minutes taken by Dan Amato

