

# Long Hill Township Shade Tree Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### April 25, 2016

**Attendees:** Melanie Palmer Burdorf, Don Farnell, Susan Jeans, Tom Malinousky, Paul Tamburri, David Welch, and Mary DeLello (recorder)

**Absent:** Phyllis Fast, Peter O'Neill, Guy Piserchia

Meeting called to order at 7:11 PM by Susan.

**Approval of March 21, 2016 minutes:** Don moved and Tom seconded approval of the March 21, 2016 minutes, all in favor, minutes approved.

#### **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

1. **Treasurer's Report:** no report
2. **Shade Tree Ordinance:** followed discussion of #5.
  - a. Test is in the exemptions. Referencing exemption: 23-6 on page 5; David Welch suggested a waiting period before deciding to take down trees and doesn't feel it's unreasonable to take down 3 diseased trees or 3 trees that endanger structures. Susan suggested instead of saying percentage of trees, it would be easier and more positive to state number of trees that can be removed. List of trees in ordinance recognize the big trees in Long Hill and thus help protect them. It would be a good idea to root feed the list of trees.
  - b. Referencing page 20; David suggested it should read invasive/invasive exotic trees. Could also list invasive shrubs. Should remove Black Locust from list.
  - c. Two areas of threshold according to David – three trees and approval for tree officer. STC would prefer sharing tree officer with another town. Fee schedule would cover cost of employee. Could modify exemptions such as limit number of invasive exotics to be taken down. Need process. Ordinance would have people need to make an application before removing trees.
  - d. Don is less concerned about details of ordinance and more concerned about the view people have of private property rights versus tree protection.
  - e. Might be easier to get ordinance approved if STC can recommend someone to enforce ordinance. Susan will call Tom Doughty, Millburn Shade Tree Commission and other surrounding towns for some ideas on who might be available. Tom will check NJ Forestry Council website for list of towns and contact persons and forward to Susan.
  - f. ISA certified arborist would be a threshold issue.
3. **Environmental Day at Millington School:** Paul can attend.
4. **Challenge Grant Program for the Spring:** May 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Six trees have been ordered. This year the STC is offering Dogwood trees. Susan is keeping tree ordering open a couple more days.
5. **Environmental Commission Meeting May 16, 2016:** It is an important meeting between STC and EC. Susan suggested we speak to Ann Hollows about

requirements for replacement trees. David suggested STC members attend other meetings to make sure ordinance is being adhered to so as to avoid problems. EC enforces State mandates for storm water control but mandates don't necessarily make sense.

6. **Special Topics in Arboriculture at County College of Morris:** Paul shared information on a three credit course to prepare for test to become arborist offered at CCM.
7. **Financial Disclosure Forms due end of April** – please complete forms
8. **Soil District** isn't doing bare roots stock this year because State not organized.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Emerald Ash Borer:** Ash trees will be probably be gone before Emerald Ash Borer affects them.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Application for Development at the Raptor Trust:** Don had no comment.
2. **Application for Development at 321 Warren Street:** No update since last meeting
3. **Application for Development at 1071 Valley Road:** Day Care Center. Substantial wet lands in the rear of property. Parking lot/trash facility has run off onto property. Don asked for clarification on how many trees will be removed.
4. **Two applications on Gates:** Don is looking at the applications.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. David moved, Don seconded, all in favor.

►Next meeting: **Monday, May 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Library.**

Submitted by,  
Mary DeLello, Recorder