



Township of Colts Neck, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

4 August 2016

Meeting called to order at 19:35 hours by Eileen Stivala, who read the following statement. "As the presiding officer of this meeting of the Colts Neck Shade Tree Commission, I hereby declare that the notice requirements in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law Chapter 21, P.L. 1975 has been provided in accordance with the Annual Notice Procedures of C 10.4-28 of said Act. I further order that this public announcement be placed in the minutes of this meeting."

Roll Call

Commission Members

Present: Eileen Stivala, Dino Nicoletta, Gordon Boak, Jen Axelrod, Patricia Eastman

Absent: Jim Nicoletti, Sean Burke, Henry Hammond

Staff

Absent: Committeeman Michael Fitzgerald, Township Committee liaison to STC, Kathleen Capristo, Township Administrator

Present: Anita O'Malley, CN Shade Tree Commission secretary

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by D. Nicoletta to approve, 2nd by J. Axelrod, All in Favor, the Minutes of the previous meeting of June 2016.

New Subdivisions and Site Plans

None Discussed

Issues

Discussion

1. Re: Ordinance revisions. STC voted to include in the Shade Tree Commission Ordinance that "A designated responsibility of the Shade Tree Commission is to monitor and maintain the health of the trees in the Arboretum." Motion by G. Boak to approve, 2nd by J. Axelrod. All in Favor.
2. Discussion regarding Tree Inspection Protocol: Shade Tree Commission wants a buffer between public requests/violations and its volunteer members. Request that Township Administrator field all initial requests/issues (electronic/phone, etc.) for tree inspection and then notify Shade Tree Commission chair. Motion by A. O'Malley to approve, 2nd by D. Nicoletti. All in Favor.
3. EAB Update: Emerald Ash Borer insects in several ash trees at Municipal Center and possibly on ash tree lined drive in front of First Aid Center. Recommendations in Arboretum Update (see attached Addendum). STC to work on a strategic plan for dealing with EAB and report back to STC. Recommendation to CN to follow. G. Boak
4. Shade tree badges distributed for each member visiting sites.
5. Arboretum Update: Tree tags being produced. Next work session scheduled for 8/19, 7:30 a.m. G. Boak (see attached Addendum).

Motion to adjourn

Motion by G. Boak to adjourn, 2nd by E. Stivala, all in favor

All in favor. Meeting adjourned 20:32.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. O'Malley, *Secretary*

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Addendum: Arboretum Report, July 2016

On July 12 a work session around the trees resulted in more vine removal and weed control.

Anita and I reviewed and finalized the format for the tree labels and validated the copy for the QR codes for each tree.

The NJ State Forestry Service has declared that all ash trees in New Jersey are to be considered at risk for attack by Emerald Ash Borer. Information from them was forwarded to members of Shade Tree Commission, Township Administrator, and Committeeman Fitzgerald, STC liaison. Even though no EAB infection has been reported in Monmouth County, there are hot spots of infection in southern Middlesex County and Mercer County among others. According to Kevin Corrigan, Monmouth County Ranger, the Monmouth County Parks System is now treating its ash trees prophylactically with imidacloprid, a systemic insecticide. The grove of ash trees at Deep Cut Park has been treated per Alan Archer, MCPS Ranger there.

There are 43 green ash forming an alley along Heritage Lane and 3 bordering the parking lot within the Arboretum at Town Hall. The 3 around the parking lot look worst with crown dieback and epicormic branching. Accordingly a site visit was arranged with Rich Opal and with Steve Rettick, both certified tree experts. Neither found evidence of active EAB infection, but did point out evidence of other ash borer damage. A similar alley of ash along the entry drive into Bucks Mills Park also shows similar evidence of stress. Interestingly, according to Mr. Obal, EAB may be more likely to attack apparently healthy trees initially.

The Arboretum does not have a strategic plan for dealing with EAB. Given the State guidelines, and the imminent threat, one should be developed. Once developed, we will share it with the Town since there will be costs associated with any treatment. This may serve as a useful template for dealing with both public and private ash trees elsewhere in town.