

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

P.O. Box 6006
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

Department of Community Development
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MINUTES

Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee

December 28, 2015

Members Present: Carmine Di Sanzo, David Bosted, Judy Bubar, and Doris Weisberg
Members Absent: Sheila Grant and Edward Sproles
Others Present: Andrew Link, Staff Liaison

Chairman Di Sanzo convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

- The November minutes were approved.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said that he contacted Florence Wyckoff and told her the Committee would consider making a recommendation about the Sturwood Way trees next year. Doris Weisberg said that the sight triangle must be kept clear.
- Chairman Di Sanzo will draft a report to Council and he invited input from the Committee members.
- Andrew Link will contact the State about funding for planting in their Route 206 right-of-way.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said he restocked the information rack at the Library which was empty.
- There was a discussion about publicizing the Arbor Day van tour. The local papers, GEPNA newsletter, and notices at the Library were suggested.
- Chairman Di Sanzo distributed a draft of his thoughts on revising the tree ordinance. He would like to include smaller trees in the protected category and create a zone of protection for any tree within 35 feet of a street. He presented New Brunswick's requirements for tree replacement as a good example. He said most of the ordinances that he reviewed were more restrictive than Lawrence's and that we are about ten years behind other communities throughout the world in the preservation of trees.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said that trees approved as part of site plans should be preserved. He also said that there is a trend toward using smaller trees that are more compatible with their surroundings.
- David Bosted said he could support changing the protected size to 6" caliper but did not wish to radically change the ordinance because it would make it difficult to enforce.
- Ms. Weisberg asked how the residents would be made aware any changes. Chairman Di Sanzo said the Committee could help in publicizing it.

- Mr. Bosted said that there must be exemptions to allow removal of dead and diseased trees, weed trees, and trees causing structural damage.
- Mr. Bosted and Ms. Weisberg both felt that there must be allowances for solar energy.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said his thoughts were intended to get the discussion going and that he would continue to explore other ordinances.
- Mr. Bosted said that the Committee should reach a consensus before moving forward with any discussion of changes to the ordinance outside of the Committee.
- Ms. Weisberg said that the discussion should wait until the Committee is reorganized with the possible addition of new members and that Councilman Powers should be part of the discussion.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said he is in communication with the Chairman of Ewing's Environmental Commission, Lee Farnham. Ewing does not have a shade tree committee so the Commission includes street trees with its concerns. Mr. Farnham may come to the next meeting to discuss Emerald Ash Borer and how the towns might work together to make the public aware of the problem. Ewing has a tree sapling planting program aimed at achieving their goal of 40% tree canopy (their current canopy is 27%) Mr. Link said that he would pull out Lawrence's tree canopy information and share it with the Committee.
- Mr. Bosted made a motion to plant memorial Metasequoia trees honoring Councilman Brame, Robert Immordino, and Ralph Copleman as soon as possible on the Maidenhead Meadows trail. Ms. Weisberg seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- Mr. Bosted said that if it would help get the trees planted he would purchase the two that Willis Greenhouse has available and plant them himself.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Andrew Link
Principal Planner