

## Shade Tree Commission Meeting July 13, 2016

Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission (HCSTC) met on the above dated in the Planning Board Conference Room at the Hunterdon County Complex, Route 12 Flemington New Jersey. The meeting notice as in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Members Present: John Anderson, A.R. Willey, William Wild, Rosa Yoo, Neil Hendrickson

Present: Tom Mathews, P.E., Director of Public Works

Audience:

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

### Correspondence

Thank you card from the Flemington Children's Program at the Baptist Church

Muesser Nursery Catalog

Invoice from Hidden Acres for Arbor Day

### Minutes:

January 13, 2016 – the minutes as of January 13, 2016 were approved

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

### Old Business:

- 2016 Arbor Day- April 29<sup>th</sup>, 16 schools participated. White pine seedlings were purchased by the Shade Tree Commission and handed out to the Flemington Baptist Church Children's Program and the Flemington Library. A Sugar Maple was planted at the ceremony held at noon at the North County Library. Bill Wild and John Anderson were present at the ceremony. Bill reported the sugar Maple is doing well and that he asked the Friends of the Library not to place a butterfly garden within the drip line of the existing trees.
- Readington Township also passed out close to 2,000 trees as reported by Neil Hendrickson, for Arbor Day
- Forestry Management Plan (2014-2018) needs to revise, add ash inventory and inoculation as goals. There is a new reviewer for the State, Carrie Sargent.

## Budget

- Operating budget remained flat.
- Need to see if a paid secretary can be added to next year's budget.

## New Business:

- Welcome new member Neil Hendrickson.
  - Neil asked that the annual Report be emailed to him so he can catch up to the commission.
- 300<sup>th</sup> Nursery
  - Approximately 120 swamp white oaks were planted by the commission this spring to replace the Norway spruce that died. The replanting brings the sampling total to 300 with the remaining species being dogwood and sugar maple.
- Utility Update
  - The electric utilities have adopted a 4-year pruning cycle to reduce the number of customer outages. The most aggressive pruning will take place closest to the substations. The immediate areas around 3 substations in Hunterdon are being targeted this year.
- Ash Decline
  - EAB has been confirmed in Cranbury New Jersey.
  - EAB suspected to the here just not confirmed yet.
  - Predicting mass Ash death in Hunterdon in a few years.
  - Commission would like to do an ash inventory on county facilities for specimen trees and potential hazardous trees for possible pretreatment. Parks properties will be inventoried first.
  - Possible CSIP grant money available if ash work to be done is listed in Management Plan.
  - Ash decline in Hunterdon is probably "Ash Yellows" as reported by Rosa and Neil.
  - Neil also reported an "Ash Bark Beetle" that is affecting the ash.
  - Commission would like to inject ash now in order to save both money and trees.

It was decided due to conflicts to move the next meeting to September 7, 2016 at 7PM at the Hunterdon County Planning Board Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 on a motion by John Anderson, seconded by A.R. Willey