

Shade Tree Commission Meeting May 10, 2017

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: Neil Hendrickson, A.R. Willey and Tom Mathews

Audience: Robert Becker, Hans Hanbicki and Bill Wild

Chairman Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

Membership

- Tom Mathews explained the process to get appointed. It was discussed that we should expand the Shade Tree Commission to 7 members instead of 5. No decision was made at this time.

Correspondence

- Letter from NJDEP Community Forestry RE: Community Forestry Management Plan
- Proclamation for Arbor Day 2017
- Thank you card from Flemington Free Public Library
- Thank you letter from Bethlehem Township School
- Email from North County Library RE: Garden Expo
- Received application for membership from Robert Becker

Public Participation:

There was a lengthy discussion about the Emerald Ash Borer and ash trees in general. Some items of that discussion included:

- Hans explained how brittle the ash trees become after just 6 to 8 months of their death. Used the analogy that they act like a tall stack of Pringles potato chips out of their container.
- Hans and Neil discussed the current value and uses for ash trees now. Their uses are lumber and furniture because there is little value due to their supply.
- Tom Mathews reported that the Hunterdon County Parks Department is also concerned about the Emerald Ash Borer and is putting together programs and maybe an inventory of Ash trees on their properties. The Shade Tree Commission asked Tom to contact Parks and get more information on what they are doing.

- Robert Becker commented that he has met with JCP&L Forestry Division to inquire if they would treat Ash Trees along their power lines rather than remove them. He was told currently their policy is to remove them, he would like John Anderson's opinion on this matter.
- Tom Mathews explained "clear zone" along roadways and that the County is not in favor of treating Ash trees that lie within the "Clear zone" for liability reasons.

Neil and Hans lead a discussion about the health of the County's Oak trees suffering from Leaf Scorch. Hans reported that oak trees are suffering and declining more in southern Hunterdon and Mercer County.

Robert Becker lead a discussion on the possibility of the County participating in a shared service concerning a tree inventory with other Townships Shade Tree Commissions. He will search what other Commissions exist and report back.

Minutes:

March 8, 2017 – the minutes were approved

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

Old Business:

- 300th Nursery-has been mowed and trees flagged.
- Update on Emerald Ash Borer – Tom Mathews reported that there is confirmation of the EAB in four (4) Townships of Hunterdon County.
- Forestry Management Plan 2017-2021-approved
- Arbor Day- Bethlehem Township School, handed out seedlings/ packet with games and EAB information.- Tom Mathews reported a successful Arbor Day celebration and the 3rd grade students appreciated the free spruce seedlings.
- Green fair at Holland Township- Tom Mathews reported the green fair was well attended; the Shade Tree Commission handed out 75 seedlings and educated those in attendance about the Emerald Ash Borer.
- The Shade Tree Commission donated 30 white pine seedlings to the Flemington Public Library for their children's Arbor Day lessons.

New Business:

- Neil to discuss procedures involved in rating "T.R.A.Q." at July 12, 2017 meeting
- Community Stewardship Incentive Program Grant. – Robert Becker discussed the qualifications it takes to receive a grant and the application process.
- North County Library Garden Expo- Saturday July 22, 2017 9:30-3PM- Was discussed but no decision was made to go. Will be discussed at the July 12, 2017 meeting.

- Robert Becker will contact Carol Bodder of the Hunterdon County Parks to see if the Hunterdon Land Trust can hold an Emerald Ash Borer educational program at on the Park Facilities.
- Robert Becker will research what other Township Shade Tree Commission exist and see how the HCSTC can assist them.
- Tom Mathews will get more information from the Hunterdon County Parks on EAD program they are starting and report about it.
- Neil Hendrickson will prepare a T.R.A.Q. presentation for the Shade Tree Commission July 12, 2017 meeting.
- Neil Hendrickson will report as the Chairman of the HCSTC to the Freeholders at their June 6, 2017 meeting on what we can expect to experience in the next 5 years with the confirmation of the EAB.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 on a motion by Tom Mathews, seconded by A.R. Willey

Next meeting is July 12, 2017