

Shade Tree Commission February 8, 2021

Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission (HCSTC) met on the above via a phone conference call. The meeting notice is in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Members Present: Bill Wild, Tom Mathews, Neil Hendrickson, Hans Hanbicki and Keith Decker

Absent: Dan Bush

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Minutes:

Minutes of December 7, 2020 were approved

Reorganization:

- Chairman – Hans Hanbicki
- Vice Chairman – Bill Wild
- Secretary – Tom Mathews

Public Participation:

- None

Correspondence:

- Daniel Volk, Cleveland Metroparks, Forest Health Project Coordinator, 2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH 44134. Information concerning the spread of beech leaf disease.

Old Business:

- Beech Leaf Disease was discussed. Infected trees leaves are striped, then turn brown as tree is in decline. Already found in north Jersey. Nematodes are cause of the disease and might be treat able with an injection.
- Spotted Lantern Fly was discussed, treating for SLF might cause harm in that beneficial insects and animals could also be killed.
- Membership - it was reported that there might be some interest, but no one has sent in an application to date. There is one vacant position currently.

New Business:

- The southern pine beetle was discussed: it is in the Pine Barrens, has also been found in Long Island and Connecticut. When infected a pine will have what looks like popcorn on its bark. Pine will get blue stain fungus which kill the tree if untreated. Norway spruce and white pines are susceptible. No ones successfully managed to prevent or control either the beetle or the blue stain fungus.
- It was discussed that the next 5 year Community Forestry Plan is coming due. Adding more education to our next 5 year goals was discussed.
- Arbor Day ceremony was discussed for April 30th. Possible location could be the hospital or county properties. Tree notices have been sent out to all the schools.
- The annual accomplishment report has been filed with the state. It is due 2/15.

- Bacteria Leaf Scorch was discussed: Found in southern Hunterdon County. BLS is lethal. Its progression might be slowed and irrigation during dry periods might help along with annual antibiotic injections.
- The 17 year cicada will appear this year. There was a good article in the star ledger educating people on this. It was agreed to post the article on our website.
- Next meeting will be March 8, 2021, Meeting will be in person with an option to call in.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.