

Shade Tree Minutes

March 8, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by George Fromm. Present were Lauren, Dorothy, George, Tracey.

Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously

We received an update on the Metuchen Shade Tree Blog from Lauren, the site is up and running and looks good. It was agreed to begin a "Tree of the Month" feature on the site to introduce the community to a wide variety of trees. The first Tree of the Month will be the Dawn Redwood.

Lauren reiterated that she needed additional information for the Tree City USA filing, including the Metuchen Arbor Day Proclamation and programs. George will provide a detailed plan of all the trees that were planted for 2009 to be added to the filing. George also mentioned articles in Metuchen Messenger, the tree inventory conducted by Davey Tree, The Tree Whisperer program run at the Library as other items to be added.

Spring Planting Bid requests have been sent out. Bids were sent to six companies and will be returned to Bill Boerth for review. The six companies chosen to participate have the ability to plant on a large scale, follow proper planting procedures and provide good service in general. We are planning on planting 50 – 65 trees this spring, trees will be added if the costs of the trees allow.

Spring Planting locations and tree choices have been chosen. We currently plan to plant the following

Amboy Ave. – Both ends of the street, near Tano Mall and at the intersection of Amboy and Lake. Approx 5-10 trees.

Durham Ave. – The bottom of the street between John and the intersection of Durham and Central. Approx 5-10 trees.

Essex Ave. – The bottom of the street between the intersection of Essex and Lake and the train underpass. Approx 20-25 trees.

Home Owner Requests – Approx 5-10 trees are designated as trees to plant at the request of local home owners.

Grants will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Direct accounts for trees owed by developers and home owners who removed trees will be further discussed at next month's meeting. George to clarify exactly what kind of account is needed.

George will meet with Zoning on Tuesday 3/9 to discuss trees money owed.

New business

The tree inventory has proved to be very helpful in researching complaint/issue calls from local residents regarding trees in town. Dorothy related a story about a resident who had a limb fall on her car and cause damage. Dorothy was able to look up the tree and found that it had been classified as needing to be removed.

The Arbor Day program is moving forward, Tracey reported that she has reached out to Ms Carter, the principal at Campbell School to see if the school would be interested in participating in a program. George suggested Tracey reach out to Megan Powers regarding YMCA donations of trees for the Arbor Day program. Tracey will also look into donations of trees from local businesses. George suggested we take care when choosing a location for the tree planting to ensure someone will be able to care for the tree throughout the first year or so. Dorothy mentioned that the Metuchen Fire Department has offered to assist with any watering needs we may have.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm