

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

October 24, 2011

Members Present: Carmine Di Sanzo, Rosemarie Clark, Judy Bubar Janet Kane, Alvin Geser (left at 8:45 PM), Doris Weisberg (left at 8:00 PM) and Edward Sproles.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Andrew Link, Staff Liaison

Chairman Di Sanzo convened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

- The September minutes were approved as amended.
- Doris Weisberg said that she has been trying unsuccessfully to contact West Windsor about their memorial tree program. She will try again.
- Ms. Weisberg said that Steve Groeger told her to submit what the Committee wishes to have included in the municipal calendar. Ed Sproles agreed to draft something about the Committee, including the memorial tree program.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said that he contacted the editor of the Lawrence Sun. They are interested in printing what the Committee submits.
- Ms. Weisberg said that David Maffei has a large specimen tree in his yard that should be photographed.
- Chairman Di Sanzo was unsure if a power point presentation could be put together by the committee.
- Rosemarie Clark reviewed what had been previously discussed about the value of informing tree care companies about the tree ordinance and proper mulching practices.
- Chairman Di Sanzo is interested in requiring notification to the Committee and/or the Township of all tree removals in advance of removal. Mr. Sproles asked what the committee would do with the information if they had it. Andrew Link cautioned that the Committee can not require more than the Township requires.
- Ms. Clark said that the Township website has links to tree items. More links such as proper planting techniques could be developed.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said that Community Day seemed more successful this year. He felt that having everyone closely grouped in the parking area created more interaction. Janet Kane provided necklaces featuring tree rings. These were very popular. Ms. Weisberg provided candy. There were 53 entries for the bonsai plant. The "how to kill a tree" also attracted a lot of interest.

- Ms. Kane is talking with the Nature Center officers about co-sponsoring a tree talk. The topics might include urban settings and landscape ideas.
- Ms. Clark said that the Emerald Ash Borer is very active in Ohio and is moving east. Rutgers is recommending that Ash trees not be planted.
- Judy Bubar said that education efforts are not enough. The Township should have an ordinance to ban mulching of trees, both in the public right-of-way and on private property. She suggested that an arrangement could be made with PSE&G. Their meter readers could be charged with checking for tree mulching when they read the meters. Any fines would be included with the utility bill. She said that PSE&G might agree to this because they bear the cost of tree removals for trees killed by over-mulching under their wires.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said that the ISA has definitive information that over-mulching does kill trees. He will provide this and continue the conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Andrew Link
Principal Planner