

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

P.O. Box 6006
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

Department of Community Development
609-844-7087

MINUTES

Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee

November 26, 2012

Members Present: Carmine Di Sanzo, Judy Bubar, Janet Kane, Edward Sproles, Doris Weisberg, and Rosemarie Clark.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Andrew Link, Staff Liaison

Chairman Di Sanzo convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

- The October 2012 minutes were approved.
- The 2013 meeting schedule was approved as amended. The Committee will meet the third Monday on March 18, 2013 because the fourth Monday is the beginning of Passover.
- Chris Tarr and Tom Stearns presented the Bristol-Myers Squibb proposal for the Princeton Pike site. They want to have surface parking instead of the previously approved parking structures. Mr. Stearns said that there are an additional 600 shade trees, 460 ornamental trees, and 6,200 shrubs in the proposal. He provided plant lists and planting details. Changes were made to include more native plants and deer resistant material. The surface will be porous pavement and there will be dry wells to allow on-site recharge of storm water.
- Mr. Stearns said that in order to get the number of trees required by ordinance, columnar trees will be planted 18' on-center in the 10' wide parking area islands. Janet Kane commented that while she was confident that the close spacing would work on this site, the Committee should examine why the ordinance is requiring it.
- Chairman Di Sanzo asked if any trees are to be removed and if existing trees will be protected. Mr. Stearns replied that most of the trees to be removed had already been removed when RCN began to develop the site years ago. Some old field trees are to be removed in the southern part of the site. These are mostly Cherries and are not specimens. Tree protection will be installed during construction.
- Rosemarie Clark asked how close the improvements are to the Brearley Oak. Mr. Stearns said the road will be 50' past the drip line and the detention basin will be 100' past the drip line.
- Ms. Kane commented on the inclusion of Ash trees on the plant list. Mr. Stearns will remove them because of the threat of Emerald Ash Borer.

- Ms. Clark said that the plant selection showed good diversity and attention to selecting cultivars. She recommended that they not include Douglas Fir because they do not do well with our summer heat.
- Doris Weisberg said that BMS has been very supportive of Township projects like the Lawrence Hopewell Trail. She recommended that the Committee approve the proposal.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said that he was pleased with the Library program. He would like to increase the attendance at future venues such as the Senior Center. He would like to see the format used again. The beginning would outline the Committee's function. The topics could include tree care, planting, selection, etc.
- Ms. Clark said that as we continue some of the stock photographs could be replaced with local images. The Committee should follow Mr. Spoles's lead and take photographs for inclusion.
- Judy Bubar showed a series of photographs that she took of the Brearley Oak.
- Ms. Kane and Ms. Weisberg suggested an article on how to select trees to replace those lost in the recent storm. The advantages of trees could be highlighted.
- Chairman Di Sanzo would like to see about getting something in the Township calendar either as part of the text or as a separate flyer. He also asked Ms. Buber to pursue her contacts with television stations.
- Chairman Di Sanzo hopes to be able to use the materials that he put together for the canceled Community Day at the Library presentation and the Earth Day celebration. He would like to have an indoor presentation.
- Chairman Di Sanzo would like to include in the Community Forestry Management Plan a proposal for grant funding to hire an arborist to survey the Township for hazardous trees and other issues. Ms. Kane would like to narrow the focus and decide on what the Committee wishes to concentrate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Andrew Link
Principal Planner