

Lambertville Shade Tree Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting

January 26, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 7:32. Present were Emily Goldman, Deborah Galen and Irene Rudolph.

Old Business:

- A. Minutes of the meeting on 12/29 were approved without revision.
- B. Emily advised that she sent an email to St. John's regarding approval at the December meeting of St. John's application for removal of two Pin Oaks on Bridge and trimming the tree Gordon's Alley. Deborah will follow up with a letter.
- C. Regarding the Fire Department's request to meet with a few Shade Tree Commissioners to go around town to access which street trees need trimming to accommodate the fire truck: Emily will request that we meet during the day instead of in the evening as the Fire Department had suggested. It will be very difficult to really make any judgements then as there will be too little light. Also, we still need to find out the New Jersey ordinance for the minimum height of clearance of the tree branches hanging over the street.
- D. Emily needs to work with the City Clerk to issue a new RFP (Request for Proposal) to hire a State-Certified forester to update our Community Forestry Management Plan using grant monies received through a Green Communities Grant.
- E. We reviewed the tree application request from Laura Blinderman and James Riggs dated Nov. 08, 2015 regarding the Pin Oak in front of their property at 34 Buttonwood. They were responding to a letter from the Shade Tree Commission sent 10/23 advising that the tree required maintenance. The application was accompanied by a letter giving 2 options and asking the Commission to make the decision regarding whether to treat the tree for pests and remove an offending branch (option 1) or remove the tree (option 2). Emily will reach out to Rich Wheeler at Tamke Tree Care to clarify his opinion regarding the health of the tree.
- F. No further progress has been made on the town tree inventory. We will resume in the spring.

New Business:

- A. Nominations were made and approved as follows: Vice Chairperson - Art Legere; Secretary - Irene Rudolph.
 - B. The 2016 Meeting Schedule was approved without changes.
 - C. We discussed whether to file an application for the Tree Recovery Campaign which makes available to municipalities free of charge 1 to 3 feet bare root seedlings. The application must be submitted by February 12. While it would be a good public relations opportunity for the Shade Tree Commission, we do not have enough time to develop a plan to pick up and distribute the trees. We agreed to develop a program for next year in anticipation that the Tree Recovery will be available again in 2017.
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Meeting was adjourned at 8:19.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Rudolph