



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Shade Tree Commission
Municipal Complex
1. Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831
732-521-4400

MINUTES TOWNSHIP OF MONROE SHADE TREE COMMISSION

For Tuesday, May 3, 2016 Shade Tree Commission Meeting.

I. Call to order by Lucille at 7:07pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call:

Pamela Broskie, Secretary
Lucille DiPasquale, Chairwomen
Darren Kutz, Vice Chairman-absent
Phil Levy, Commissioner-absent
Nick Parente, Commissioner-absent
Shaun Hluchy, Commissioner-absent
Stanley Geltzeiler, Commissioner-absent

Charles Petretti, Commissioner
Michael Leibowitz, Council Liaison
Leonard Baskin, Alternate I-absent
Lorraine Sarhage, Alternate II
Gary Lovallo, Tree Assessor
John Riggs, Conservation Officer
Peg Schaffer, Attorney-absent
Sarah Fitzpatrick in Peg's absence

Read by Pamela

IV. **SUNSHINE LAW:** In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the following:

- a. Posted on January 8, 2016 on the Bulletin Board of the Office of the Township Clerk in the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza and remains posted at that location for public inspection:
- b. Printed in the HOME NEWS TRIBUNE and CRANBURY PRESS on January 8, 2016;
- c. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Complex
- d. Posted on the Monroe Township Website; and
- e. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

IV Applications: None

New Business:

Attendance Policy: Letters will be sent to members who have not attended for a period of 8 consecutive Weeks, or for 4 consecutive regular meetings.

Welcome letter was suggested for new members explaining that as a member of the Shade Tree Commission you are required to attend all meetings, volunteer at Green Fair and Oktoberfest, and be involved in our annual Arbor Day Event. Draft letter will be viewed at next meeting.

Discussion about Emerald Ash Borer was held. These insects will be killing the Ash trees in Monroe. Commission will need to find out how many trees we have in the Township, educate the public and have a policy in place in order to combat this problem.

Lucille Dipasquale's report is attached. She suggested member's share any articles that they think may be of interest to the Commission. She will get some pamphlets from Freehold Soil Conservation to share with members and possibly use as hand outs at other functions.

Lorraine Sarhage's report is attached. She stated that the Monroe Schools participated in a poster contest titled "We all need trees". She recommends a book called "Hidden Life of Trees".

John Riggs' tree log report is attached. He also reported that every plot is taken at the Community Gardens on Applegarth Road. On Saturday, April 30th, a group from TCNJ and members from the Green Team worked all day to re-establish the wet meadow and cleaned up the area. He reported that the Township received a \$20,000.00 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant to create an updated ERI. The Green Fair will be at the High School this year on October 8, 2016.

Gary Lovallo's report is attached. He reported that the Tree City process is now on-line which makes it much easier. He is waiting for their approval. He is working on a new 5 year Management Plan for the Township. John and Gary revised the Tree Removal Permit.

Pamela Broskie reported that the Arbor Day celebration was very quick due to the weather. Councilman DiPierro, and Councilwoman Betty Schneider attended as well as many of our members. A weeping cherry tree donated by Shaun Hluchy was planted in the middle of both schools. A 1st grade class sang a song and a 4th grade class recited a poem. Chairwoman DiPasquale presented school with Proclamation. Gary gave the students tattoos, which was a big hit, and we gave 98 seedlings to students.

Our next meeting will be July 5, 2016

THE RIGHT TREE, PLANTED IN THE RIGHT PLACE, THE RIGHT WAY

March 25, 2016

This program , which I attended, was at the PSEG Training and Development Center in Edison. I found the following topics very important:

(1). The Emerald Ash Borer has already affected millions of trees in 25 states. New Jersey is in the Federal Quarantine program. There is a NJ EAB Task force consisting of several agencies. The website: www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov has the latest information. The insect was spotted in both Monroe and South Brunswick in 2015. We need both a street and municipal (ROW, parks, etc.) inventories to determine our scope of action to save ash trees. Methods of treatment are soil injection, bark spray, truck injection and traps. A Plan must be developed to determine tree size for removal and which trees to save/replace. Tools which can be used are (a). The EAB Calculator developed by Cliff Sadof. (b). Perdue EAB Cost Calculator, and (c). SLAM program.

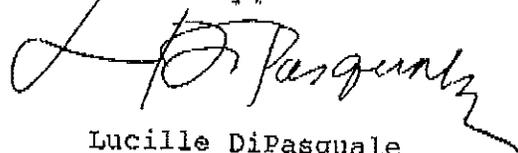
Treatment is expected to extend 20 - 25 years, 80% of the cost of treatment will be paid by the municipaly and the cost will be millions of dollars. WE MUST ACT NOW! WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE ACTION.

(2). Lisa Simms spoke about both the importance of the specie of the tree to be planted but the "health" of the tree.

Lists of tolerant trees, utility friendly trees and affordable tree planting and maintenance were distributed. In conclusion, an application for "FREE" trees and shrubs from the NJ Tree Foundation were distributed. The deadline is APRIL 1, 2016. These trees must be planted by the Township (boyscouts?) In addition, the public and private landowners can purchase seedings and shrubs from the NJ Tree Foundation.

We have a great deal to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucille DiPasquale', written in a cursive style.

Lucille DiPasquale

April 9, 2016

To: Shade Tree Commission
From: Lorraine Sarhage
Re: Invasive Species Conference Report

Thanks to Pam Broskie, I attended the **2016 New Jersey Invasive Species Conference** on Wednesday, April 6, at Duke Farms in Hillsborough. The program featured expert presentations on management issues in New Jersey. The Conference was approved for Continuing Education Credits for participants in the Community Forestry Program (3 CEU's).

The State of Invasives in New Jersey

Susan Brookman, Strike Team Executive Director, explained how invasives, being non-native, negatively impact the ecosystem by reducing biodiversity. The Strike Team can provide technical assistance. Their website is www.njiss.org.

Species Profiles

Dr. Michael Van Clef, Strike Team Science Director, reported on both widespread and emerging invasive species. For example, the Japanese angelica tree acts aggressively from root sprouts, forming large competitive thickets. It spreads into uninvaded areas through bird dispersal of the berries. Because it is emerging, though, it can still be controlled.

Emerald Ash Borer Damage, Dispersal, and Biological Control

Mark Mayer, Bio-Control Field Coordinator, works for the NJ Department of Agriculture. His talk was undoubtedly the most pertinent to our Commission. Since several species of ash trees serve as host to this invasive, its destruction is pervasive. In fact, NJ is officially a "quarantined" area. As a result of this infestation, 98 species of other insects that depend on ash trees will also suffer, creating a loss of diversity. Nationally, the cost of emerald ash borer damage is estimated at \$20 billion.

There are two styles of control traps which use a pheromone attractant. Alternatively, there is chemical control by injection in the trunk or soil. The emerald ash borer's natural enemy is the parasitoid wasp, a non-native bio-control.

Cutting down all ash trees as a prophylactic is not recommended because some ash trees could be resistant. Those resistant trees could be valuable for future diversity.

Invasive Plants and the Landscaping Community

Lindsay Gafford, New Jersey Audubon Stewardship Department Specialist, outlined a grant-funded campaign of retailer education/outreach to help stop the spread of invasive species. Since 85% of invasives have been introduced by landscapers, efforts are being made to contact garden centers to encourage native species alternatives.

Deer Management - the Cheesequake State Park Story

David Donnelly, Cheesequake State Park Superintendent, described the link between invasive plants and the white-tailed deer population. Controlled hunting can reestablish balance so that native plants can outcompete invasives.

Deer Management - Working with Municipalities

Michael Van Clef expanded on the previous speaker's information, using the experience in Hopewell. Where there are many deer, there are few native plants because their browsing holds back regeneration. Forest fragmentation produces excellent deer forage. Therefore, a smaller herd size especially fewer does, benefits the community by reducing Lyme disease, vehicular accidents, agricultural loss as well as loss of forest seedlings.

Community based deer management requires a township resolution. Applicants must document deer damage and estimate the deer population size to justify the need for the resolution.

Politics and Invasive Species – State Bills, Local Ordinances

Megan Tinsley, New Jersey Audubon Policy Director, outlined various bills pending passage, but generally there has to be a crisis like the emerald ash borer before a legislative body will take action.



Chestnut Arboricultural & Forestry Services, LLC

A Tree Expert Company
Community Forest & Woodland Management Consultants

Monroe Tree Assessor's Report January 2016 – February 2016

January 5, 2016

Shade Tree Commission meeting

January 8, 2016

To municipal to pick up plans for Om Sri Temple

January 15, 2016

Created organizational chart for planning/zoning & STC plan reviews
& emailed Riggs and amended as per recommendations 2

January 15, 2016

Reviewing OM Sri temple plans for report compliance. No changes on plans,
called Dynamic engineering to find out why. Sent wrong set, will overnight
revised plans.

January 19, 2016

To Municipal bldg. to pick up plans for OM SRI Temple

Spoke with Riggs about short time to do review and he will handle
as a condition for approval.

emails to twsp on report and JCP&L line trimming ordinance
sections

January 20, 2016

Spoke with Fred from JCP&L Re: trimming policy in twsp.
Revised flow chart on approval process from Riggs

January 21, 2016

Meeting at Municipal bldg. with Fred of JCP&L, Jose & Catherine
from Davey, and John.

brief meeting with Riggs to clarify lots along stream corridor

Site inspection at Matrix on Applegarth

Site inspection at Hoffman Station rd B 49, lot 12 for waiver
request – send letter.

Site inspection on Garibaldi ave 3 lots

Inspection at Rues lane site,

January 28, 2016

Spoke with Anthony Bifulco of Matrix and I will review and report
Violation letter to Amertech eng re: Hoffman rd
Inspection at 37 Keswick circle - 3 trees
Inspection at 2, 12, & 27 Mitchel – no trees
To Municipal bldg.

Picked up 2 items

Spoke with Greg Pasquale re: Andymatt issues

hrs

Back to 12th street & Ave K to determine tree factor

Site inspection at Monroe medical on spotswood-englishtown rd

Inspection at 8 Sumac re: complaint of fallen limb- none found

Inspection at 9 Vernon – dead tree removed

Surveyed Matchaponix ext for phase 1 to R & R defective pears.

Discovered clearing of trees behind Center State engineering office

February 1, 2016

Spoke with Alec M of NJFS Re: use of seedlings, needs email with date
clarification form distribution.

Sent utility permit to Riggs.

February 2, 2016

Reviewing Matrix plan

February 3, 2016

Spoke with Hussain of Amertech re: Pushtel STC waiver. Letter sent to owner
with no response and he will find out.

Spoke with Riggs Re: Pushtel – no permit, engineering holding up.

Faxed letter to Riggs.

Completed review of Matrix plan

February 4, 2016

Report on Matrix completed

Reviewed landscape revisions for OM SRI Temple

February 5, 2016

Completed review of OM SRI temple plan

February 23, 2016

Spoke with Davey re: tax map for property owners

February 24, 2016

Drafted new tree removal permit and emailed to Riggs

February 29, 2016

Spoke with Chung of Dynamic Eng Re: OM SRI Temple and
Emailed report to him.



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Monroe Tree Assessor's Invoice & Report March 2016 – April 2016

March 3, 2016

Email replies re: inspections and planting requests
Emailed ordinance sections to Matrix at Applegarth that they were looking for related to report.

March 4, 2016

To Municipal building
Pick up 2 plans for review
Spoke with Administrator Re: contract for spring planting and suggestions to secure a better result.
To Planning for updates re: Pushtel approvals and compliance issues, Ave K violations – paid fees but not for 2 trees that were to remain. No CO release until satisfied. Forward to Lou.

March 7, 2016

Emailed revised tree planting specs to administration for tightening up specs including a NJCTE.

March 14, 2016

Spoke with administration and go over specs again before sending out. Issued final recommendations

March 16, 2016

Reviewed site plans for the Gables @ Applegarth to assess fees not submitted prior to clearing without a permit.

March 22, 2016

Completed Gables review and violation letter, with fees and municipal action.
Spoke with Riggs - forward to all listed as to be copied & regarding rte 33 south; confirm submitted data and assess fees for area cleared without permit.

March 28, 2016

Set up meeting at the Gables with all involved to resolve permit issue.
Meet on the 30th, on site.

March 30, 2016

Inspection at Federal Road re: complaint on email about leaning dangerous trees – from Perrineville to England rd, found several dead trees and 1 leaner. Southside trees are 75% trimmed by utility, Northside have some issues but nothing of immediate concern.

Meeting at the Gables to discuss violation letter. They are improving landscaping on the site and will subst plants as recommended. All added plants in excess of requirements will be applied toward replacements. .8 acre & 118 trees.

Inspection at 14 Manor Blvd Re: request to R & R

April 1, 2016

Spoke with Administration re bid results.
Spoke with Riggs re: Rt 33 south ordinance version and fee structure. Need permit with fees paid for 8 Union Hill rd.

April 4, 2016

Meeting at Encore entrance with reps from Encore and twsp to discuss how to be more successful with buffer and berm plantings.
Inspection at Monroe Oak to look at cable girdling limb and to get pole numbers. Send violation letter to both utilities.

April 5, 2016

To municipal building to pick up plans for Matrix and plans for Lucille.
Spoke with Pam re: Arbor day, seedlings, and agenda for school.

April 7, 2016

Created spread sheet for spring planting

April 13, 2016

Continued work on planting list
Completed fee review and structure for JSM rt 33 south, Galway report.
Spoke with Sean Martin of JSM re: fees and the possibility of a land swap to offset fees.
Spoke with Riggs re: JSM offer, he will send report to them.

April 14, 2016

Begin Tree City re-cert application. Now an on-line application. Request proclamation from admin.

April 19, 2016

Completed & submitted Tree City application to state. Fax over signature page.

April 20, 2016

Processed paperwork for Lucille properties. 8:00 – 9:00

Meeting at Matrix at Applegarth with Maser Eng, to review landscape plans under ROW, additional tree removals, and re-calculate totals. Can exempt trees from ROW and exclude those listed as poor. Discussed status of heritage/specimen oak.

Spoke with plant owner Bob Lombard re: the damage to the specimen tree and that trucks are on Matrix property. He must provide a barricade keeping trucks from further damage to tree. He agreed to comply.

To mun building and spoke with Riggs re: matrix results and inspect the buffer at Monroe Chase.

Inspection at 27 Dominic Re: email of 3.17 dead tree. R&R with Zelkova.

Inspection at Old Forge Rd trans ROW re: complaint on wood being dumped there. Wood is very old but newer piles being dumped along row with soil, concrete, chips.

Inspection at 162 Old Forge Rd Re: complaint on leaning tree. 1 tree previously removed and another leaner on private property. Trees marked on paper road Pearl st are dead and resident wants them taken care of as they are over road.

Inspection at 7th ave and Johnson streets for application on new SFD.

Inspection at 38 Grand ave Re: dead tree on corner ion landscape bed on private property.

Inspection at 9 Edward ave Re: tree removal violation of specimen trees.

April 21, 2016

LM for D'Onofrio landscape – Mr D will return my call.

Revised spread sheet list – added recent requests, deleted errors.

April 25, 2016

Additional list revisions

Emails and replies to admin & Planning

April 29, 2016

Arbor Day ceremony at Brookside and Bartlett schools

Inspection at 577 Buckelew re: violation of trees removals, fill import and burying of material. Spoke with H/O who confirmed activity.

Inspection at 9 Mimi for tree request.

Inspection at 16 Sycamore re: tree replacement along detention basin

Processed permit for 7th and Johnson ave.