

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission
June 15, 2022

Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Randy Santoro, Cindy Aiken, Gregory Axt, Kate Creegan (via Zoom), Scott Kessel, Tom Nicoletti, Linda Sims (via Zoom), Al Werner

Absent: Frank Goodhart, Jack Gray, Jim Baldassare, Judy O'Connell

Public Meeting Statement

- Not read.

Previous Month's Minutes

- Approved.

Bills/Correspondence

- None.

Charter Day

- Al, Randy, and Cindy volunteered to man the booth. There were 62-65 quizzes taken and perhaps seventy-five people participated in the quiz with some people working as teams.
- It was a tough quiz with eleven species and fifteen choices.
- The highest score was nine out of eleven. The top scores were 9,8,7 and the four prizes donated by Back to Nature were given out.
- There were a quite a few questions on invasive species and invasive insects.
- Handouts on spotted lantern fly and emerald ash borer were taken.
- The National Arbor Day activity books were a hit with younger children and tree booklets were also given out.
- Perhaps we should have a handout/flyer about the Shade Tree Commission describing our mission and projects for next year?
- Nick Fetchko of Tarzan Tree Service is interested in serving on STC when there is an opening.
- Randy took photos.
- The tent is stored at Randy's home.
- The banner, tablecloth, handouts, clipboards, and poster boards are in the closet in the municipal building.
- The screens belong to the EEC.
- Randy wrote a thank you note to Back to Nature and Judy printed and mailed it.

Education Report

- No updates.

Tree Removals/Prunings/Plantings

- Tree service for the township is up for bid.
- Currently using Moosewood, a former contractor for work.

- The DPW crew is doing minimal pruning because of the road work that must be done now.
- Need to prune on walkways.

Subcommittee Reports

- No updates.

Public Comments

- None.

Old Business

Spotted Lantern Fly Traps

- The Environmental Commission's workshop on 5/24 at the Community Center resulted in sixty spotted lantern fly traps.
- The traps were placed in three parks – Mountain, Dunham and PVP on June 2nd by the Ridge senior students on their Ridge High School Gives Back Day.
- Randy, Al, and Kate, along with Todd Edelstein, Nancy Cook and Deb DeWitt of the Environmental Commission worked with the students and explained how to attach traps to the trees.
- The traps will be up for June and July and removed by DPW.
- Al checked some of the traps and found various insects including spotted lantern flies and leafhoppers.
- If it is decided to keep the traps, Kate has offered space in her barn for storage. The traps could be collected in late July and placed in bins.
- Next spring discuss strategy of trap placement.

Salem Oak seedling

- Jack planted and is caring for it.
- Signs are being made for these seedlings. Wait to see if it is viable before getting a sign.

Tree City USA

- 17-year stickers have been attached to the signs.

New Business

20 Trees in the center of Basking Ridge

- The original walking map of twenty trees needs to be updated.
- Kate agreed to update the map and info.
- Should we attach new tree tags to the trees? Some of the existing tags need to be replaced.
- The original tree tags were made at Reeves Arboretum. It was estimated that the cost was \$7 per tag with an additional setup fee.
- What should be put on the tag? Should the town logo be placed on the tags? Link to a website?
- Keep the list to twenty trees so it fits on one page.
- Goal – have the list ready for next year's Charter Day.

Commissioners Zones:

- 1 Cindy
- 2 Randy, Kate
- 3 Randy, Linda

- 4 Jack, Scott
- 5 Al
- 6 Jack
- 7 Frank
- 8 Greg

Adjournment – 8:05

Next meeting – July 13, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Aiken
Guest Secretary