

Metuchen Shade Tree Commission—Meeting Minutes—March 7, 2023

Attending: Dorothy Rasmussen, Bettina Caluori, Ken Sammond, Rebecca Sabreen, Kunhan Lee

Ken called meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Correction to Minutes: Spelling of Kunhan Lee's name needs to be corrected in body of minutes.

Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2023

Bettina moved to accept minutes. Rebecca seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Arbor Day: What would be a good location?

Ken suggested that Vidas Park might be a good location. He also suggested St. Luke's on route 27.

Bettina thought the location on route 27 is a small way to address our concern for tree canopy on major roads into the borough.

Following up on the idea for planning for allee loss, Dorothy suggested planting another tree there in fall, perhaps.

St. Luke's location agreed upon by all for Friday, April 28, 2023.

Bettina raised the concern about creating a longer-range plan for replacing trees on major borough roads.

Dorothy referred us to the 2015 plan.

Kunhan reviewed the plan and notes that much has not been done. Also it refers to a tree inventory that we no longer have access to.

Ken notes that plan was not a design plan.

Kunhan asked how we ask for the borough to pay for the inventory again.

Discussion covered how the Community Forestry Plan needs to be redone. We will need professional resources and help.

Bettina noted we are currently focused on reacting to problem trees.

The group decided that the time has come for longer-term planning for main corridors of trees.

The discussion focused on the need for an aesthetic plan. How does the borough create a plan to plant high-impact trees?

Dorothy pointed out that grants might be available to create shade on certain streets to protect against global warming/climate change.

We agreed

- to begin researching how to support a long-term plan to have
- we need our tree inventory back

Kunhan reiterated a desire to meet with the Melissa Perilstein, Borough Administrator, and Brian Lewis, our Public Works Manager next month.

Adjourned at 8:38 pm