

Metuchen Shade Tree Commission

September 5, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:42 p.m.

Present: Jeremy Campbell, Rebecca Sabreen, Kun-han Lee, Bettina Caluori, Dorothy Giamboi

Absent: Ken Sammond. No members of the public present.

Minutes from August 1 were approved.

Old Business

New Jersey Shade Tree Federation for Core Training will be October 26 and 27. The weekday scheduling is a problem for working members.

MSTC will have a table at the Farmer's Market on Sept. 23. Jeremy will check on access to supplies in the Senior Center and the existence of a banner. Set-up at 8:30 am. Final setup will be by email.

Ken Sammond is working on a report of the worst trees on Amboy.

Doroth Giamboi reported Melissa Perilstein is open to reactivating the tree inventory in 2024. Jeremy Campbell pointed out it would support the forestry management plan in 2025.

New Business

Discussion of projects for MSTC:

- Updating a list of appropriate trees, also specifically for under wires or adjacent to wires
- Guidance for planting in normal/ narrow strips,
- Planting guidance regarding root ball height, mulch material
- Guidance for specific streets (Main, Middlesex, Amboy)

Discussed two tracks of guidance: Homeowner guidelines vs. Developer guidelines.

Kun-han suggested improving communication to residents about how to care for dead branches or suckers.

The staff and time limits of DPW is a factor., i.e. notifying DPW about dangerous branches.

Jeremy suggested improving information on the MSTC site. All agreed this is a good goal. First, put enough information on the site. Then, drive people to the site.

As we research and develop guidance, we can learn of expert sites that might potentially link from our site.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.