Millstone Township Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes June 14, 2023 7:30 p.m.

The Millstone Township Shade Tree Commission meeting was held via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6755709146?pwd=TGV4aXZ5RGZEdFJoNGxkYkJ3YVRYQT09

Attendees: Ellen Terry (ET)

Victoria Talyansky (VT)
Bruce Wolf (BW)
Mary Beckish (MB)
Steve Koester (SK)

Lisa Rosati (LR) (Township Tree Expert/Consultant)

Absent: Eric Davis (ED) (Township Committeeman, Liaison)

Guests: Mark Mamrega

Meeting called to order @ 7:36 p.m. Motion VT / Second SK

Old Business

Minutes from 5/10/23 meeting approved. BW motion/VT seconded.

Draft Tree Removal Ordinance – LR presented the new revisions to the ordinance based on discussions with Kate Halka-Posten and Pat Butch of the Agricultural Advisory Council. The new revisions allow farmers to sign a one-time certification that they will comply with the Tree Removal Ordinance. Farmers will be exempt from the ordinance when expanding production area and maintaining existing established agricultural modified wetlands. They will comply with the ordinance if proposing new clearing in restricted areas or proposing clearing for residential or personal development. The STC voted unanimously to approve the proposed revision and accompanying Farm Certification. (ET, VT, BW, MB & SK voted yes.)

Tree Brochure from DPW – STC reviewed the DPW brochure. The STC approves of the brochure with minor revisions that will be sent to Dan Specht. The STC agreed that it is best to wait for the Tree Removal Ordinance to be approved before utilizing the brochure because some additional ordinance revisions would be required.

LR addressed the STC on two documents required within our Community Forestry Management Plan: Wildfire Disaster Plan and Comprehensive Tree Disaster Plan (Storm Damage Assessment/Insect Disease Management). The overall topics to be addressed within each document were briefly discussed. SK and MB have volunteered to gather information.

MB discussed the Sustainable NJ Trees For Schools – Regional Greenhouse Initiative. The grant application is due on 7/23/23. MB has a working knowledge of grant website but would require some assistance with information. MB will ask Eric Davis to contact Dr. Huss of the Middle School to determine if there is interest in this grant.

MB would like the STC to have a table at the Green Fair, held during Millstone Day on 9/28/23.

New Business

Plan Review - Arbia Antico Land Subdivision, LLC – Block 60.02, Lots 12, 12.02, 13 & 14.01 (P23-06). LR will prepare and send STC review letter to the Planning Board.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:38 p.m. ET Motion / SK seconded

Next meeting: July 12, 2023

Adopted Date: August 9, 2023 SK Motion / VT seconded