

**Millstone Township Shade Tree Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 13, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

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

Attendees: Ellen Terry (ET)  
Victoria Talyansky (VT)  
Bruce Wolf (BW)  
Steve Koester (SK)  
Mark Mamrega (MM)  
Eric Davis (ED) (Township Committeeman, Liaison)  
Lisa Rosati (LR) (Township Tree Expert/Consultant)

Absent: Mary Beckish (MB)

Meeting called to order @ 7:33 p.m. Motion VT / Second SK

**Old Business**

Minutes from 8/9/23 meeting approved. SK motion/ VT seconded.

Street Tree Inventory update and assignments – LR updated the STC on street tree/hazard tree inventory and contractor’s expected completion date. The STC reviewed data collected by the contractor including tree ratings and condition identifying all insect and diseases recorded. Related topics to include on the STC FB page were discussed to provide Public Education and Awareness to residents. ET and VT will add additional items to the STC FB page. (15 minutes)

NJUCF Compliance – Education - CEUs and CORE training – ED confirmed that he will attend CORE training at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference in October 2023. ET and SK will obtain the remaining required CEU’s for 2023.

Tree Removal Ordinance update – ED informed the STC members that the latest revision to the ordinance will be presented to the Township Committee at executive session on September 20, 2023. LR mentioned potentially updating the ordinance to allow only 50% of trees removed for new development be excluded from replacement requirements.

Landscaping review request – LR informed the STC that the Boards have requested replacing the proposed use of ornamental grasses to other more desirable species in future landscape reviews.

Millstone Township Green Fair – ET updated the STC on the success/failures of the STC table at the Green Fair. Discussion for improvements took place.

## **New Business**

Millstone Park – LR informed the group that the STC has been asked to provide landscaping recommendations at the park. Since the STC has a goal of completing an arboretum at the park, a variety of species should be utilized. Additionally, the possibility of STC, led by ET, providing a lesson to the DPW on proper planting prior to installation of new species. Irrigation is a key element for success. A STC site visit has been scheduled for Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

Millstone Property Company (Black Bear Indoor Recreation) application Z23-05 – application for bifurcated use variance only. STC discussed briefly to request a minimum of 80% native species be utilized in the landscaping plans if the application moves forward. LR will write a letter to the Board stating the same.

Trail Walk – ED discussed a partnership with the Environmental Commission to provide a trail walk along the trail pathway where STC identifies tree species. ED will discuss further with members.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:29 p.m. SK Motion / VT seconded

Next meeting: October 11, 2023

Adopted Date: October 11, 2023 BW Motion / VT seconded