

INTERLAKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2019-

Sunshine Law Read as required – no members of public were present

This final edition of the 8/9/19 meeting minutes was approved by the ISTC at its 9/10/19 meeting.

Present: Heinz, Insabella, Wetstein, Hughes

Excused: Dalton, Papp

Also present: Borough Council ISTC liaison Arthur Fama

Minutes:

- 1) The July ISTC minutes were approved with some typo changes requested as noted by members at this meeting. Motion: Insabella; Second: Wetstein. Approved
- 2) Interlaken Borough Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP): Bill Brash, certified tree expert (CTE) of Shelterwood Forestry Managers LLC of Freehold NJ, reviewed the latest draft of the Interlaken CFMP to be submitted for the 2020-2025 period to the ISTC members. Mr. Brash indicated the updates of the previously approved CFMP for the period 2014-2019 have been made as per the ISTC recommendations. He noted a question he had on the ISTC budget for 2017 which must be submitted to the NJ DEP Community Forestry Service as part of the submission package. The question was resolved when he was advised the original budget amounts reflected the ISTC requested and anticipated amounts which were subsequently reduced as part of the final approved Interlaken Borough Municipal Budget for 2017. Mr. Brash stated this would not be an issue and will be noted for the submission. Other topics reviewed included the updating of annual CFMP goals including an annual ISTC newsletter, approval as a Tree City USA, and annual planting and pruning of public trees. Mr. Brash indicated the Ash tree management plan in Interlaken will be included in the CFMP, noting monitoring of any ash borer infestation will be monitored and tree removal of existing Ashs will be part of future annual ISTC budgets. Updating of the municipal tree inventory was also discussed, along with a possible storm management plan. ISTC members indicated they were in agreement with the proposed changes and Mr. Brash said he would send a revised draft to the ISTC for review by the end of August 2019.
- 3) Interlaken Tree Preservation Ordinance Update: Mr. Fama provided an update on the proposed revisions to the Interlaken Ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter XXII "Protection of Trees" (Ord # 2019-7). He indicated a draft of 2019-7 incorporating ISTC changes would be presented to Borough Council at its 8/21/19 meeting for review and discussion. A copy of the proposed revisions will be provided to Council members in advance of that meeting, and a Council vote may be possible at the September meeting. Mr. Fama noted the process for review of tree removal permits prior to approval is an area that may need further clarification, especially with regard to ISTC involvement and recommended a functioning work flow process be prepared. Discussion ensued on how this could be best achieved for a timely and fair process which recognizes resident applicant desires and timelines for tree removals involving "heritage" trees. Heritage trees are those defined as trees with circumference of 40 inches or more. Tree assessments would include the health status of the tree and purpose for removal. The

ISTC members discussed alternatives to a single member person evaluator, or a subcommittee of 2 or 3 members to provide independent and prompt assessment if one person was unavailable (due to travel, for example). It was suggested ISTC members consider these aspects and return with a plan at the next meeting, which may require a special meeting of the ISTC to be responsive to anticipated Council inquiries.

- 4) 2019 Tree Planting Update. It was reported by Mr. Insabella that all 9 trees purchased by ITSC had been planted and are being monitored for progress. All trees had watering bags and deer guards installed and appear to be in reasonable health thus far in the summer. Residents who received trees were advised to water the trees using the bags and they have been compliant. Mr. Insabella and Ms. Heinz complimented the DPW team for their hard work in planting during some intense heat conditions. Mr. Insabella recommended tree purchase and planting plan for 2020 start earlier to have the trees in ground by May. He volunteered to oversee the planting process and work closely with the DPW and species selection team to achieve early planting deadlines. This proposal was agreed to by the ISTC.
- 5) 2019 Fall Tree Pruning – Ms. Heinz recommended the ISTC finalize its Fall tree pruning plan at the September meeting. She will send a list of current tree pruning/removal sites as recommended by the members earlier this year to the ISTC members before that meeting so any adjustments can be evaluated. She noted some urgent tree pruning and removal projects had emerged as the year progressed which may impact the 2019 Tree removal/pruning budget allocation.
- 6) Yard of the Month – Mr. Insabella reported that the YOM award was presented to a residence on Bridlemere Avenue as per prior ISTC vote. He explained that he had alternated the monthly plan because he was unable to connect with the original planned recipients for August, and that those selected properties will receive the YOM at a later month. Discussion ensued on the designation of recipients by month, and the selection process timelines will be further reviewed at a future ISTC meeting.
- 7) 2019 ISTC Budget Report – Mr. Hughes reported that the 2019 ISTC YTD expenditures had been provided by B. Coy of the Borough Finance Department, and a comparison to budget plan indicates the ISTC is still within budget at the half year mark. This recognizes adjustments may be necessary depending on potential Fall storms or potential unexpected public safety issues from municipal trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm based on a motion by N. Wetstein and seconded by P. Hughes. The next regularly scheduled ISTC meeting will be on 9/10/19

Respectfully submitted: Peter Hughes, ISTC Treasurer