

INTERLAKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – May 11, 2021 - final

- A. Welcome to All. NJ Sunshine Law was read to all participants prior to beginning of STC Meeting.**
- B. Roll Call: Marguerite Dalton, John Insabella, John Finn, Laura Fikus, Jodi Heinz, Peter Hughes Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.** Meeting conducted online via Zoom due to NJ State Covid 19 regulatory limitations for public meetings.
- C. April 13, 2021 meeting minutes approved. Motion to approve: J. Heinz, Second M. Dalton**
- 2021 ISTC Budget-** It was announced that the Borough Council had approved an \$8,000 operating budget for the STC at BC's April meeting. Discussion held until #6 on Agenda.
 - Street Planting Plan.** Sub-Committee (SC) will review proposed sites to ensure correct addresses for 2 locations, esp those where HT replacements with City (public site) trees funded optionally by HHT resident removers may allow funding for more trees than total of ten in 2021. Remainder of sites proposed were agreed to in principle.
 - 2021 City Tree Fertilization Plan –** The program of fertilizing newly planted and other City trees according to a schedule for certain following years will continue as per contract sent by Bartlett Company 4/15/2021. Proposal – Dalton, Second-Heinz. Voted: 5 in favor, 1 abstention.
 - CFMP Plan Year Two –** Newsletter update. Status Interlaken Borough issuing town-wide newsletter is unresolved at this time. Heinz will continue to monitor schedule and check with Borough Council STC liaison Mindy Horowitz.
 - Heritage Tree (HT) Preservation Sub-Committee –** Insabella reported the 2021 HT Log not changed since the April report, but that some new requests had just been received and will be promptly reviewed. The SC reviewed the resident questions about replacing HTs designated as “dead” in 2020 assessments in response to the Replacement letter sent recently. This included an advisory by Mayor Nohilly that “dead” trees did not have to be replaced with new plantings as described in the Ordinance. Discussion ensued about an emerging threat to oak trees, designated as the “oak blight”, which may impact HT management and replacements to maintain Interlaken's tree canopy. Fikus and Heinz will prepare a memo about this disease problem to give to the STC liaison M. Horowitz to share with Council so that they may fully understand implications of not replacing trees classified as “dead”.
 - 2021 Finance** Approved 2021 Budget = \$8000. 10 City trees to be planted. Fertilization plan continues. In order to respond to Borough Council reduction of requested total of \$9,000, it was agreed to reduce the proposed amount for Pruning & Removal from \$2300 to \$1300 to accomplish overall reduction. Arboretum tree signs – Dalton advised some have been prepared and ready to be attached to plaque stands, but a few still need to be engraved. Dalton will update STC if engraver can be located with cost projection. 2021 sign work will be done with funds budgeted, with any remaining needed new signs carried over to 2022. Proposal to approve internal STC budgeted amount. Proposal: Insabella, Seconded: Fikus. Vote: unanimous approval.
 - New Business:**
Privately Funded Trees - After discussion of information supplied by Mayor Nohilly to J. Heinz during STC meeting, the STC reviewed about Residents donating the funds for a

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City/street tree possibly to be planted in front of their residence. Such a request to make a donation is different from the required replacement of a removed HT (*owing to special circumstances (ie small lot size) and those requests will be reviewed individually by the HT S-C. The suggestion here is that donations can be made for a City Tree “Wish Tree” with no actual agreement to plant a tree in front of the resident’s home. The request will be reviewed by the ISTC. 2021 City Tree planting and replacement will be made as per usual committee processes. The Wish Tree suggestion will be brought to Council for information.

Spotted Lanternfly Inspections Inspections were conducted in public areas by STC members, no LTF egg masses were found at this time in those areas.

8. **Yard of the Month 2021** Two nominations proposed to Insabella. Recommendations reviewed. 200 Grasmere Avenue was approved for May YOM
9. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 by Heinz and seconded by Insabella.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Fikus, STC Secretary-2021