

Meeting of Interlaken Shade Tree Commission

Meeting held – April 9, 2024– Borough Hall

Welcome to All. **NJ Sunshine Law was read to all participants prior to beginning of ISTC Meeting.**

Attendees per roll call: **Marguerite Dalton, John Insabella, John Finn, Janet Casini-Pepe, Laura Fikus, David Sobotka, Charles Santoro**

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Minutes for the March meeting were approved. Finn approved, Pepe second.
- **Heritage Tree**
 - 33 Scarba has requested a tree removal which is being reviewed.
- **Revision of Tree removal/Replacement ordinance**
 - The state has issued new requirements for tree removal and replacement ordinances. Our current ordinance does not comply with the new state requirement. Lori is reviewing the revisions that will be necessary so that our ordinance regarding tree removal and replacement is in compliance.
- **Arboretum Tree Stakes**
 - Marguerite found a business in Brielle that is making us tree stakes for the signs that will be put up in the arboretum. The required 12 stakes will cost \$300 and will be picked up in mid-April.
- **Meditation Garden**
 - We are planning for a meditation garden across the street from 100 Bridlemere near the lake. This will probably be done during the summer. The garden will be named, “The Hope Meditation Garden”. The bench will be named for John McTague who recently passed away unexpectedly.
 - Santoro suggested using Polywood® for the two benches as the material holds up very well to the sun and weather. He also noted that Bradley Beach has a “Plant a tree in memory of ...” program. A resident can have a tree planted in memory of a loved one for \$350, plus \$70 for the sign for a total of \$420. This may be something we consider in the future.

- **CFMP 2025**
 - Bill Brash is in the process of updating our tree inventory on the public lands which is required for the CFMP renewal.
- **Bank Account**
 - It was noted that the ISTC should have a separate bank account so that when we raise money, such as through selling tee shirts and sweat shirts, we can deposit it in an account separate from the town's recreation commission which is where it currently goes. This is needed as the funds raised will be used for shade tree related projects.
- **Yard of the Month**
 - Insabella advised that the May YOM will be 721 Bendermere.
 - Santoro nominated 501 and 503 Bendermere for future YOM consideration. We agreed one will be this year and one will be for next year.
- **Arbor Day**
 - Dalton advised she is ordering stuffed breads for the Arbor Day celebration to be held on April 27th.
 - Artists are still being contacted and arranged.
- **Public Comment**
 - There were no comments from the public.
- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.