

Meeting of Interlaken Shade Tree Commission

Meeting held –January 9th 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, Charles Santoro, Janet Casini-Pepe**

Absent: **Fikus, Sobotka**

Meeting was called to order at 7:06PM

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Minutes for the November meeting were approved. Finn approved, Santoro Second
- **New Officers 2024/2025**

The following people were nominated and approved for positions for the next two years

 - Chairperson- Dalton
 - Vice- Chairperson- Casini-Pepe
 - Treasurer- Finn
 - Secretary- Sobotka
 - Yard of the Month- Insabella
- **County Forestry Plan/Urban Forestry Today**
 - Dalton will email the team on the new guidelines
 - Dalton will also let the team know when webinars will take place, that we can sign up and be a earn credits
 - Dalton informed the group that Levon Bigalow has left the NJ forestry group, TBD on who will replace him
- **Budget**
 - We have \$8064.00 left from the grant money, the expectation is that the remaining sum will be spent in the next two years for tree fertilization and any other maintenance from the 88 newly planted borough trees from the grant.

- Finn is working on the new fiscal budget from the town for 2024. We have 700.00 left from 2023 and have 8000 from the town.
- **Memorial/Honor Trees**
 - Jacklyn Dallas emailed the town saying that her grandmother, Virginia is a lifelong resident of the town and they wanted to plant a tree in her honor.
 - We established that we would start a program where a tree could be planted in honor or memory of a resident, we will launch this officially at the Arbor Day Celebration. Santoro is going to work on a form to fill out with information he received when he planted a tree in honor of someone in Chicago. It would be at our discretion if the tree is planted in the Arboretum or the park, we will supply a tree marker that is attached to the tree and the purchaser can choose from a shade or flowering tree. Each one will be \$1000.00.
- **ISTC Email**
 - Jacklyn Dallas emailed the town, but that email went to Peter, the former Chair. Insabella is going to call Laurie at Borough Hall to see if the administrator can change the password so we can receive any correspondence addressed to ISTC. Not only do we need to change the password, but we also need to reroute the emails to us.
- **Shirts**
 - Santoro showed a sample of a ISTC T shirt with the new logo, front and back he got from Belmar Shirts. It was approved that we would order 60 shirts at 13.00 each and sell them for 25.00 at Arbor Day Celebration. 5 Smalls, 10 Medium, 25 Large, 20 Extra Large. He also showed two sweatshirt ideas, both in green. The thicker one was chosen. We will order 35 of those which wholesale for 29.00 each and sell at 50.00. 5 Medium, 15 large, 15 Xtra Large
- **Arbor Day Celebration**
 - Dalton is going to start the search for a speaker, we will also supply around 25 seedlings for attendees to take, Santoro will work on a new flyer that Insabella will put in the Coaster and order a new sign for Town Hall, since we have moved our celebration to Saturday. We will use the old one if it rains.
- **Tree Bags**
 - Finn is going to talk to Norm and see if the DPW can pick up all the tree bags as they are very dirty to put in our cars.
- **Public Comment**
 - There were no comments from the public.
- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.