

Meeting of Interlaken Shade Tree Commission

Meeting held – May 14, 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**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

- **Approval of Minutes**

- Dalton requested a change to the April draft minutes relative to the meditation garden. The garden will be called, “The Hope Meditation Garden” and the bench will be named for John McTague.
- With that change, the April minutes were approved.

- **Arbor Day Festivities Review**

- Next year we would like to get more artists to attend.
- The speaker, Kevin Akey, was well received.
- The list of attendees at Kevin’s presentation has been sent to the state.
- A total of \$275 was received through the sale of sweatshirts and tee shirts.

- **Revision of Tree Removal/Replacement ordinance**

- Lori is working on the necessary revisions to Interlaken’s current tree ordinance with engineer, Peter Avakian. These changes are necessary due to changes mandated by the state.

- **Requested Tree Removal**

- The owner of a home on the 500 block of Grasmere Ave has requested removal of some trees. Marguerite is currently reviewing the request.

- **Tree Planting Grant**

- A total of \$30,600 was reimbursed from the state for last year’s tree plantings. This was the expected amount.
- The new trees will be fertilized within the next few weeks.

- \$7,000 of the grant money is set aside for fertilizing the trees for the next two years.
- **Replacement Trees**
 - There are a few trees in town that do need to be replaced (Not among the newly planted trees from last year).
 - There is a weeping willow in the arboretum that was destroyed by deer despite the tree having a tree guard and water bag. That tree will need to be replaced as well.
- **Champion Tree (Big Tree Conservation) Program**
 - The state is revising its Champion Tree/Big Tree Program. There is a state form to be filled out and sent to the state for any tree in the borough. Any suggestions are welcome.
- **Pollination Garden**
 - Dalton said that the garden needs to be weeded. She will be setting up a date to do that.
- **Public Comment**
 - There were no comments from the public.
- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.