

## **Interlaken Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes-July 13, 2021**

**A. Roll Call: Peter Hughes, Marguerite Dalton, John Insabella, John Finn, Jodi Heinz. David Sobotka attended as a prospective new member. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.**

**June 8, 2020 meeting minutes approved. Motion to approve: Finn, Second, Insabella. The Sunshine Law was read prior to beginning of the meeting,**

**1. 2021 Street Planting Plan. In conformance to Borough requirements for a minimum of three quotes/bids for purchases over \$2,625, we will solicit additional bids for our planned September/October planting of street trees. The Boro Administrator has advised the STC can choose who they would like to work with on the project and it doesn't need to be the low bidder. If the STC feels there are advantages or factors that a vendor of higher price should be chosen, that is acceptable. Additionally, Council determined that should a resident donate money for a street tree in front of their house, there can be no guarantee that a tree would be planted.**

**2. NJDEP –Community Forest Management Plan 2021 Year 2. J. Heinz to distribute draft ISTC portion of town newsletter via email so that STC members may comment. Final version must be ready after August meeting as town newsletter to go out in September. Additionally, as Arbor Day observance is not required this year to COVID delays, it was decided to forego STC public event observance due to lateness in year.**

**3. Heritage Tree (HT) Preserve Ordinance Subcommittee. J. Insabella reported a permit denial for 22 Rona. An appeal is anticipated. J. Heinz to request M. Horowitz as our Council representative to address questions of A. Oak Blight awareness. B. Follow-up policy for HT replacement by residents. C. Further explanation of Borough policy re sidewalks disrupted by tree roots.**

**4. Finance -2021 Budget. Still tracking as per budget plan.**

**5. Yard of the Month. J.Insabella requested new nominations to be sent**

via email. P. Hughes noted that it was his understanding the YOM award focus was on trees in a resident's front yard and the trees coordination with other planting, versus trees in a back yard which is not typically accessible to public review.

6. **New Agenda Topics.** The importance of better clarification of the problem of tree roots that raise sidewalks was emphasized. The STC asks that residents alert the Commission if there is a perceived street tree root upheaval problem and sidewalk repair is planned so that impact on tree roots can be assessed prior to work.

7. **Communications Update from Residents.** Resident at 722 Grasmere requested analysis of street tree roots raising sidewalk.

8. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 by J. Insabella and seconded by J. Finn.

**Respectfully submitted by John Insabella**