

Dunellen Shade Tree Commission – Agenda April 27, 2016 Meeting

Members: Kenneth Baudendistel, Sue Butterworth, Robert Rios, Bob Berg, Erica Grun, Cate Walsh, John Ruskuski

Attendees: Ken, Cate, Bob, Erica and Robert (by phone)

Absent: Sue, John

New Business

- **85 letters went out to residents asking about their interest in trees; Ken received 6 yesses back so far.**
- **Purchase fertilizer stakes** for recently planted trees. Cost is approx 15 spikes for \$9 (Miracle Grow sticks – Sue researched these and they are pretty good fertilizer sticks). Sue suggested that we do this in the spring and the fall. **Sue will buy 5 sets of 15 for approx. \$45. Will fertilize all newly planted trees from fall and spring of last year**
- **Mulch and place gator bags newly planted trees.** We have to apply new mulch to all trees planted the fall of 2015 in preparation for the inspection in May.
- **Ken sent the list of trees and location to team**
- **Forestry Plan activities to implement**
 - New 2015: Create and utilize a fertilization program for newly planted trees.
 - New 2015: Organize a Borough street tour open to the public lead by our LTE to identify various trees along the way, answer questions and raise awareness of our current tree profile
 - New 2016: Establish a tree of the month spot on our Facebook page with educational tips and identification techniques specific to that tree. General statistics and information will be provided along with a picture, to serve as a database of trees from this point forward as a reference tool. **Sue will take this action**
 - We will be required to complete a new forestry plan the end of the year – need to prepare.
- **Schedule day to clean RR embankment** and put down mulch.
- **Tree Pruning- Scheduled for May 21st after they bloom**
- **CTE search update**
- **Arbor Day celebration planning**
 - **To be celebrated the first Friday in May – May 6th.**
 - **Night of May 5th, we will meet around 7 pm at Faber to prep**
 - **180 kids will be in attendance; 3rd and 4th grade**
 - **9:15 am start time**
 - **Ken, Robert, Bob and potentially Cate will meet around 8 am at the school**

- **Cate will purchase watering cans with large spouts from Home Depot for the students; Ken will bring some gator bags**
 - **Shade Tree commission will provide the school with mulch for the trees each year**
 - **Robert's wife will take pictures of the event**
 - Ken met with Mr. Lubisco several times. He liked the idea of planting approx. four trees of various sizes, from seedlings up. **We will plant all flowering trees, pear, cherry, plum, and dogwood (Ken ordered 1 sapling of each type). We also will plant the donated 8 foot Japanese Cedar tree, as well as two 4 ft trees that Ken purchased; one cherry tree and one dogwood. The front of the school was decided as the best option for the planting location.**
 - The 3rd and 4th grades were selected to add the care of the trees into the curriculum so that each spring they are mulched, watered and pruned accordingly.
 - The Arbor Day celebration will include some education, hands on planting, and on-going maintenance needs
 - Ken ordered a plaque for each tree.
 - Does the DSCT supply the mulch each year? **Yes we will**
 - **Ken ordered customized pencils to give to the students pencils that say "Dunellen Shade Tree Commission". He also will bring the planting materials from the street fair (planting instructions etc) as well as some Arbor Day history material that he has.**
 - **Ken to give school Tree City USA flag to fly the week of Arbor Day**
 - **Ken called for utility mark ups. He will arrange for us to have the truck the morning of Arbor Day.**
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- **CBGB Fund-** plant trees west of Madison Ave and north of North Ave.
 - **Ken - Found the missing magnetic signs for truck; they have faded some so we will need to look into ordering new signs soon**
 - **Ken wants to clean up the ground around the potted evergreens that were moved to the park recently.**
 - **Bob already mulched around the trees in front of the church with Red mulch (thanks Bob!)**
 - **We will pick two or three days in the month of May that we can all get together**
 - **Ken will look for the information for the man who volunteered at the fall fair to donate native plants; we will try to see if we can get these for the train station.**

Old Business:

- **CSIP Grant Opportunity - Due April 15th. Not eligible since our grant from last year has not been closed. State has not inspected the trees planted last fall.**

- Robert suggested that we start trying to get other groups involved with our events, such as the senior center members. Also suggested that we try to get more people to attend meetings, etc.
- Cate suggested that we get the schools to post our banner during the month of April.
- Tree Inventory update
 - **We need to see a report of the hazardous trees in town**
 - Street Fair Planning
 - Needs to be done at a later meeting
 - HarvestFest
 - Needs to be done at a later meeting

Next meeting is May 11th 7:30 at rec ctr.