

**Dunellen Shade Tree Commission – Agenda
January 6, 2016 Meeting**

Attendees:

Absent:

New Business

Welcome new members

John Ruskuski and Bob Berg

Appoint new Commission positions for 2015:

- Chairman—
- Vice Chair—
- Secretary –
- Reappointed by the mayor January 1st.
 - Ken Baudendistel, Robert Rios, John Ruskuski

Terms of all commission members:

Kenneth Baudendistel – Chairman
year term expires 12/31/2015

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Robert Rios – Commission Member
5 year term expires 12/31/2015

Sue Butterworth – Vice Chairman
4 year term expires 12/31/2016

John Ruskuski – Commission Member – replacing Cindy Beam
3 year term expires 12/31/2017

Cate Walsh – Commission Member
3 year term expires 12/31/2017

Open
3 year term expires 12/31/2017

Erica Grun – Secretary
4 year term expires 12/31/2018

2016 Meeting Schedule

- The majority of meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. All meetings will be held at 7:30 pm and will be held in the Dunellen Recreation Office, second floor of the municipal building. All meetings will stay as scheduled regardless of attendance to lessen the confusion associated with trying to reschedule.
- Proposed 2016 meeting schedule:
 - Mar 9th
 - Apr. 27th (4th Wed. of the month due to Arbor Day planning)
 - May 11th
 - Sept. 14th (1st Wed. of the month, plan Street Fair)
 - Oct. 12th
- October—CORE training and annual seminar

Arbor Day celebration planning

- Discuss ideas for the 15th Annual Arbor Day celebration will most likely occur on Friday, April 29th (if children are involved) or Saturday, April 30th.
- Some ideas presented were:
 - Choose a block in Dunellen and plant trees. We would like for this to be in a high visibility area.
 - Possibly send out letters to block of our choosing indicating “your block has been chosen for beautification...”. Let residents of whichever block is picked choose if they want trees, what kind and how many. Must be planted somewhere on Dunellen property (along street), not private property.
 - Cate suggested that we plant some evergreen trees, possibly near the schools so that they could be decorated during the holidays. A suggestion was made that if we do this they be dwarf-sized trees.

Need a CTE

- Ken suggested that members call around to Certified Tree Experts in the area. The State has a list available of all CTEs. The list can be found at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/cte.html>

Previous discussions

- When anyone contacts a CTE, they should ask about pricing and experience. Please keep in mind that not all CTEs provide the same services. The NJ list describes what services each CTE provides.
- It was suggested that we might want to contact the person being used currently by the town of Middlesex.
- It was also suggested that we should ask if any CTE contacted would be willing/available to conduct a class for the public on tree care, pruning techniques and tree risk assessment (for free or for a discounted price, if possible). We would use this time to determine if we like the CTE and wish to use their services.

Old Business:

- Facebook Page: Some discussion was made regarding the Facebook page for the Tree Commission. To be discussed further in the future. We would like to start utilizing the Facebook page more in the future.
- Potential future event suggested by Cindy:
 - Use the display case in the library to highlight DSTC activities, including pictures from past events, winning poems, posters and essays from contests etc., as well as an invitation to the community to join the DSTC. Cindy will see if the display case is available for the month of April.
- Supply needs – We need to have a fertilization plan for the newly planted trees. It was suggested that we use some money to purchase fertilization sticks. Sue also suggested that we purchase more gator bags.
- Organize a Borough street tour open to the public lead by our CTE to identify various trees along the way, answer questions and raise awareness of our current tree profile.

Tabled for now until we find a new CTE. It was suggested that this event occur on a Saturday, so that more adults could attend.

On-Going Initiatives

- RR Embankment – We need to schedule working on this again soon.
Need to trim, spread mulch and maybe plant flowers?
 - Tree City USA

- How to spend 2015 budget
 - USE IT OR LOSE IT -_Must be used up soon
 - Deposits from construction site and dedication trees

- Tree Inventory update
 - Sue to present the current state of the inventory.

- Tree Pruning- Propose a date for us to walk together and prune newly planted trees. Spring Task. To be discussed/scheduled at next meeting

- Street Fair Planning
 - Needs to be done at a later meeting

- HarvestFest
 - Needs to be done at a later meeting

- Fertilization program for newly planted trees.
 - We need to have a fertilization plan for the newly planted trees. This is a requirement. It was suggested that we use some money to purchase fertilization sticks