

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

P.O. Box 6006
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

Department of Community Development
609-844-7087

MINUTES

Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee

October 26, 2015

Members Present: Carmine Di Sanzo, David Bosted, Sheila Grant, Judy Bubar, and Edward Sproles.
Members Absent: Doris Weisberg
Others Present: Andrew Link, Staff Liaison
Michael Powers, Councilman

Chairman Di Sanzo convened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

- The September minutes were approved as amended.
- The following public comments were made in support of establishing a “Roxboro Shade Tree Park” at 125 Roxboro Road:
 - Jean Smiles: “Landscaping is already established & configured. Park that doesn’t entail crossing Rt. 206 – within walking distance for many neighbors.”
 - Patricia Beach (156 Roxboro Road): “When I moved to Roxboro Road 63 years ago, the street was a canopy of shade trees. Over the years, the trees died out and were never replaced. In spite of this, Roxboro Road has remained one of the loveliest streets in south Lawrence. Let’s keep it this way – now that the proposed development has not yet materialized – by grasping the opportunity now to secure a beautiful shaded property for passive open space. This parcel of land, although small, would help to preserve open space particularly in south Lawrence where so much development is taking place. Please consider this recommendation which the neighbors so strongly support.”
 - Karin Cermele (242 Fieldboro Drive): “I favor the property to be made available as a Shade Tree Park for the taxpayers of Lawrence Township in particular the neighborhoods between Review Avenue going south to the Brunswick Circle between Princeton Pike and Route 206. The tract is accessible from Roxboro Rd. & Fieldboro Drive and offers street parking. Any construction or streets on this tract would strain the already existing flooding during heavy rain & snow melt run-off.”
 - Nick Bosted spoke about creating a raingarden to control run-off.
 - Tim Martin spoke about no more tree loss.

- David Bosted's comments are as follows:
 - "Without excavation and site development, many more trees could remain on the site."
 - "The report to Ed Bucci didn't cover all the trees on the parcel; it focused on the key trees that would be affected by development for six houses."
 - "The report made no statement and drew no conclusions about use of the parcel as open space, and how that might affect specimen trees."
 - "Since the report was prepared (several years ago), there have been numerous strong storms and none of the major trees have come down, so they are strong not decrepit or dangerous."
- Councilman Powers said that drainage had been considered during the Planning Board application and the plans addressed the issue.
- Andrew Link referred to report by the developer's Certified Tree Expert that concluded that almost all of the trees had serious defects that could not be remedied. He also said that the Planning Board approval has increased the value of the property and he questioned whether the proposed park would get much use.
- David Bosted moved and Edward Sproles seconded a "Motion to recommend to the Council to initiate discussions on creation of a 'Roxboro Shade Tree Park' at 125 Roxboro Road, consistent with public comments, pending Trails, Open Space, and Stewardship Advisory Committee recommendation." The motion was unanimously approved.
- The Committee discussed a letter from Florence Wyckoff who would like the Township to buy and plant two Hinoki Cypress in the traffic island on Sturwood Way. Councilman Powers will look into it. Mr. Sproles said that the plants, which are pyramidal evergreens, must be placed outside of the sight triangle. The trees also must be salt tolerant.
- The Committee reviewed the Britton Industries plans and will propose adding trees.
- Chairman Di Sanzo is almost finished identifying planting sites along Route 206. The next step will be creating a plan that can be presented to the D.O.T.
- Chairman Di Sanzo said the tree letter has been posted on the website and he would like to get it published elsewhere.
- Councilman Powers said that the Township will take care of a memorial tree for Councilman Brame. He also said that Maidenhead Meadows is reserved for memorial trees but trees or benches in recognition of living persons may be placed elsewhere.
- The van tour is planned for April.
- Chairman Di Sanzo shared his research about tree cutting ordinances from other localities that are much stricter than ours.
- Chairman Di Sanzo will meet with Mr. Bosted to produce a draft of proposed changes to the tree removal ordinance.
- Councilman Powers said that discussion on the use of voluntary work should wait until next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Andrew Link
Principal Planner