

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

March 28, 2016

Members Present: Judy Bubar, David Bosted, Sheila Grant, Edward Sproles, Mike Powers
Members Absent: Kim Taylor, and Doris Weisberg
Others Excused: Carmine Di Sanzo, Andrew Link, Staff Liaison

Vice Chairman Bosted convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

- The February minutes were approved.
- Tree Canopy Goal re-approval. The STAC members unanimously endorsed the re-approval of 36% as the shade tree canopy goal for Lawrence Township.
- FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS for 2 PRINCESS ROAD (next seven bullets):
- 2 PRINCESS ROAD FINDING #1: The existing paved area at 2 Princess Road is excessive. The paved impervious parking area is far beyond actual daily needs. No additional impervious paved area is necessary. Multiple site visits found parking patterns at 2 Princess Road to be remarkably similar to the current Google map / air photo and very stable. The western double-lobed parking area (about 40 spaces) was never observed to have a single car parked in it. Also, the NW lobe was never observed to have a single car parked in it. The four other western parking areas nearest the building are typically about 33% utilized. Overall, the parking utilization is very low.
- 2 PRINCESS ROAD FINDING #2: The existing small area of wooded and grassy open space on the west side of the property is small compared to the impervious parking and roof areas, but has a great visual impact. It provides a visual buffer at a high traffic area on Princeton Pike. There is a mix of large mature and interesting smaller trees. The wooded area has wildlife value. A flock of robins was observed during a March site visit, feeding on the grassy area.
- 2 PRINCESS ROAD FINDING #3: It is advisable to review the drainage and retention scheme for this low-lying Princess Road area as a whole, rather than continue to look narrowly at each individual basin only. Reduced impervious surface, and additional trees, would help retain water on the site, and help to prevent flooding downstream. The flood-prone area of Rt. 1 is downstream from this site.
- 2 PRINCESS ROAD RECOMMENDATION #1 No additional impervious area is justified, since the parking utilization of the existing impervious parking area is very

low.

- 2 PRINCESS ROAD RECOMMENDATION # 2. The existing small western wooded area is thriving, was part of the original variance, and should be retained in its entirety. Additional trees would typically help wick water from the ground via transpiration.
- 2 PRINCESS ROAD RECOMMENDATION #3. Retention of the small western wooded area has visual value, contributes to the safety of the busy Route 95/295 entrance and exit ramp area, and contributes to drying this low-lying and damp area.
- 2 PRINCESS ROAD RECOMMENDATION #4. The existing trees contribute to Lawrence Township's tree canopy goal. All thriving existing trees should be retained. Consider permanently deeding a partial interest in the small western wooded area to the Township, to protect the wooded area from encroachment.
- The Committee reviewed the plans for the Lawrenceville School Crescent. The plans were satisfactory, with little or no impact on the plantings. The Committee endorsed the concept of a "Crescent Carless Core."
- The plans of PSE&G to expand its electrical station on Bunker Hill Road were discussed. The committee members regretted the proposed expansion, the loss of existing mature trees, and the major visual impact on the residential neighborhood by expanding toward Bunker Hill Road. If the Board could find ways to minimize these negative effects, that would be desirable.
- Florence Wyckoff's letter requesting STAC endorsement and Township support to plant a Hinoki False Cypress in the Sturwood entrance median was discussed. There was consensus among the members present that the original plantings of juniper were probably a better choice (lower profile, more naturalistic, affect visibility much less, more deer resistant, more salt- and wind-resistant, more drought-resistant, and unlikely to be cut as a Christmas decoration). There are many varieties of juniper (low mounding and ground-hugging, green or blue) that are inexpensively available. So juniper is better.
- We should enlist the assistance of Florence Wyckoff to find locations in Sturwood Village where we can plant more trees. There are many nice trees, but it appears that there could be many more to provide more summer shade.
- Discussion of the tree ordinance was carried over.
- For Arbor Day plantings, it now appears that the plantings will be mixed evergreens to strengthen the existing declining buffer on the southern boundary, alongside the border with Notre Dame HS. According to Andy Link, the Township Manager has agreed to that option. Bill Brash has looked at that area and agrees with planting mixed evergreens which could include white pines, holly bushes, and possibly spruces. The Stephen Brame memorial Metasequoia tree will be planted at Maidenhead Meadows, but in a separate operation and ceremony.
- The CSIP grant was unanimously approved by STAC, for tree planting and addressing hazardous trees.
- The Township will be receiving 100 tree seedlings from the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign in late April. These trees will be distributed at the Mother Nature Festival on May 7 at the Lawrence Nature Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted, David Bosted, Vice Chairman, STAC