

# TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

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Department of Community Development  
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## MINUTES

### Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee

June 26, 2017

Members Present: David Bosted, Edward Sproles, Carmine Di Sanzo,  
Members Absent: Sheila Grant and Judy Bubar  
Others Present: Andrew Link, Staff Liaison

Dave Bosted convened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

- The May minutes were reviewed by the members present. They will be voted upon at the July meeting. Long-time member Doris Weisberg has resigned from STAC for health reasons. Doris is highly esteemed on STAC for her knowledge and participation. We appreciate her long service. Doris will be missed.
- There were no public comments, no members of the public being present.
- The application for **Veena Donuts, LLC (Dunkin Donuts)**, SP-6/17, 3330 Brunswick was reviewed. Tax Map page 42.09, Block 4202.01, Lot 38. The area of "hardscaping" is already high. STAC members recommend against allowing the % of impervious surface to further increase. STAC members recommend removing at least two parking spaces and planting trees in the reclaimed, vacated spaces. A durable tree such as thornless honey locust might be a good choice for this site. Honey locust creates very little leaf litter in the Fall. All existing landscaped areas should be preserved at this Dunkin Donuts site. A well-established tree in the front is shown on the plans as being proposed for removal and a lighting fixture placed on that spot; this tree should be preserved and the lighting fixture can be placed elsewhere.

We also object to the proposed removal of the landscaped strip to the rear of the building's parking area. The small amount of existing landscaping should be preserved and enhanced. Existing landscaping is very minimal in this highly visible site, yet it would be further reduced under this proposal.

The existing tree shown at the rear of the lot should be preserved. The plans are unclear about the preservation of this tree. This shade tree should be maintained and protected. Having shade trees is part of making a property user-friendly; any features that enhance public use, including pedestrian enjoyment and access, should be maintained and reinforced.

- **Removal of Hazardous trees** was discussed. Three trees were removed this month from the Lawrenceville School side of Main Street. Andy Link had previously called attention to health problems with these older trees. The advanced extent of the internal decay of these trees was amazing and disturbing. Along Princeton Pike near the High School, PSE&G has been aggressively trimming high branches that threaten power lines. The days of shade trees arching pleasantly over major roadways belongs mostly in the past, a part of history. Removal of overarching branches is essential to preventing power outages during major storms and hurricanes. Smaller street trees will likely be the trend for the future.
- **Business Route 1 Median Planting** was discussed. NJDOT has not indicated what it intends to plant in the reconfigured Business Route 1 median, if anything. Andy Link will seek out additional information, so that plantings can possibly be made during the Fall planting season.
- **Education efforts.** David Bosted proposed a tree walk-and-talk in the Main Street area of Lawrenceville, during Labor Day weekend. He will report back to the Committee at the July STAC meeting on the feasibility of doing this education walk.
- NJDOT officials came to Lawrence Township to review the feasibility of **tree planting in the 35 mph zone of the Lawrence Road section of Route 206**. 20+ trees might potentially be planted in the NJDOT setback, however there are site limitations including potential underground utility conflicts.
- The **row of dead Linden Trees at the Lawrence Senior Center** was discussed. There is no clear reason for an entire row of well-established Linden trees to die suddenly. There were no prior indications of stress or disease. STAC members will continue to investigate this unfortunate situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Bosted, STAC Chairman