

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

May 22, 2017

Members Present: Doris Weisberg, David Bosted, Edward Sproles, Carmine Di Sanzo, Sheila Grant

Members Absent: Judy Bubar.

Staff/Others: Andrew Link, on vacation, and Michael Powers not present

Dave Bosted convened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

- The April 2017 minutes were approved.
- Long-time STAC member Doris Weisberg announced that she would be resigning from the committee due to health concerns. All members present expressed their deep appreciation for her knowledge and her efforts over the years on STAC. We will miss Doris. Doris said that she will continue on the Planning Board and would continue to be an advocate for trees.
- The application for **2958 & 2470 Brunswick Pike** was reviewed. It had previously been looked at by STAC at the April meeting. At least three shade trees should be planted in what are currently parking spaces in the pre-existing parking area alongside Colonial Lake Drive. The current unpleasant appearance of the large blank wall along Colonial Lake Drive creates a visual blight on this otherwise highly desirable street. The STAC members objected to any aspects of the plan which remove existing mature trees and landscaping, as being contrary to the proposed and ongoing beautification of Business Rt 1. We object to any plan to increase paving while removing existing mature trees.
- The application for a **Johnny Rockets restaurant at Quaker Bridge Mall** presents an opportunity to plant several trees near the outside eating area and in the adjacent parking area. This will make the eating area of the restaurant, and the Mall generally, more desirable. This Johnny Rockets proposal had previously been looked at the April STAC meeting.
- The **Shake Shack proposal for 3509 Brunswick Pike** was reviewed. There is a need to plant shade trees or have tree islands to break up the large expanse of pavement that is proposed for a tight site. There is high asphalted area and high impervious surface. Drainage is unclear and that could affect plantings. Pedestrian access is unclear. Also, there should be a wooded buffer between the paved areas and the adjacent properties.
- The **HACBM proposal for 31 Darrah Lane** was reviewed. There are some interesting trees proposed. But even so there is a highly asphalted area and high

impervious surface immediately uphill from the important Business Route 1 traffic artery in an area that is periodically inundated by flooding. We recommend additional trees as islands in the parking area. For this site also, drainage is unclear and that could affect plantings. .

- **Arbor Day** was discussed. Arbor Day 2017 was celebrated on Friday April 28 with the planting of a large white pine conifer tree on the front lawn of Town Hall at noon. Information about the event was prominently displayed on the Township Website. Mayor Maffei read a proclamation, which was reviewed and displayed at the meeting. Photos were taken during the event as the last official event by retiring Municipal Manager Richard Krawczun. The Arbor Day banners that had been purchased by Mr. Di Sanzo were on display. The STAC members discussed having “**Plant a Redbud**” **tree as a theme** for Arbor Day next year (2018) and that Mike Powers would be the appropriate person to present this idea to the Township Council. Planting a specific type of tree might have more impact than “plant a tree” generally.
- Doris expressed concern about the massive **tree removal** along the Green Acres entrance road, on the south side, near Burning Tree Lane.
- Mr. Di Sanzo restocked the library information rack.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Bosted, Chair