

**MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH OF WEST LONG BRANCH
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

The Regular Meeting of the Shade Tree Commission (STC) of the Borough of West Long Branch was convened on August 13, 2020 in the Borough Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Ellen Whitford
Rachel McCarthy
Melanie Engel
Mary Lynn Mango (Council Liaison)
Maura Resnikoff attended as a possible future STC member

Shade Tree Commission Meeting 6:30 PM

A. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm.

B. Site Plan Review

1. No site plans.

C. Shade Tree Administrative Matters:

1. Attendance: Ellen, Rachel and Melanie were in attendance.
2. It was determined that there were the following in-kind hours to be logged: EW (12) RM (5) ME (2).
3. June 11th minutes were reviewed and approved.

D. Unfinished Business:

1. Emerald Ash Borer Follow-up Letter to WLB Residents
 - a. Melanie sent letters out to all WLB property owners with Emerald Ash Borer trees.

E. New Business:

1. Hazardous Tree Complaints
 - o There were a few residents who had reached out with complaints about questionable hazardous trees. These were addressed through Code Enforcement, Jim Miller and Amanda Farrell.
 - o There was a tree service performing work at a home that did not have their variance for home extension approved and the tree service was not licensed. One of the trees on the property were inspected by Jim and Amanda and with

members of the STC. The tree was topped, i.e. cut in half, which is an improper way to trim a tree, as it can both kill the tree and the tree and is unsightly. Further, tree service informed the STC members that they (the Tree Service) did not know how to prune trees and the homeowner asked STC members how to prune.

- STC, has since posted a few educational flyers about topping trees and using licensed tree services on the WLB Shade Tree web site.
- STC also noted that the homeowner[s] who removes more than one tree per year, that is not diseased or hazardous, will have to replace that tree per our WLB Tree Ordinance.
- There is a tree in question on Somers Avenue. The requests are coming from the neighbor, not the property owner. The tree on the property was reviewed by the Zoning Board. STC recommended that the tree not be removed. STC was called again on this property for another tree. STC recommended that this tree also not be removed.
- Tulip trees on Dennis Place were being cut down. STC notified Jim Miller who was able to stop the tree from being taken down. This owner will need to take his plan regarding the trees to zoning.
- 45 Brookwillow Avenue resident has asked the STC to look at the property. A resident is concerned about trees in his neighbor's property.

2. Storm Damage

- Councilman Sniffen sent STC a report of recent tropical Isaias Storm Damage. Noted was a small tree at Ronan Shirvanian Park, some limbs at Valenzano and 2-4 trees at Franklin Lake.
- With the recent storm there was a lot of tree work/cleanup in town. Both Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Commission commented that WLB DPW did an amazing job of the cleanup in town. These commissions were incredibly grateful for these services.

3. Owens Property – Grant Application for Parking Lot

- The Owens property was deeded to WLB. It is almost 7 acres of land, and the borough owns 2 acres nearby as well.
- Councilman Sniffen presented a plan to improve the Owens Property. The Borough Engineer is working with the Council to come up with a plan for the improvements.

4. New Tree Planting for 2020

- STC discussed planting trees in the fall. The trees lost in the recent storm were discussed as possible trees to plant as replacements. A tree in the back of Borough Hall was also discussed to provide shade for the playground.
 - In time for the next meeting, STC will review the following numbers and locations for the trees:
 - Two for Franklin Lake
 - One for Shirvanian Park
 - One on the WLB Police Building Property Playground
 - Sorrentino Park needs more Shade Trees. However, it was mentioned that there are plans to expand the walking path, so STC would need to see where the walking path would be before doing any tree planting.
 - Comments are welcome on any of the tree plantings.
 - It was also noted that the WLB Recreation Department may have some additional funding to help with beautification.
5. Beautification Committee
- It was mentioned that WLB council wants more flowers in lieu participation of the Fall Festival, and funding will be provided for this. STC will convey the message to Sharon Kelly, head of Beautification Committee.
6. Franklin Lake
- The topic of algae and proliferation of growth at Franklin Lake was discussed.
 - This topic has been routed to Stephanie Miller who is handling this.
7. Tree Care Education
- We need to encourage residents to prune trees and look out for overhanging limbs and branches. This is an ongoing task and it contributes to storm damage when trees are neglected.
8. Tree of Heaven
- Tree of Heaven is an invasive species and attracts the spotted lantern fly, which is a pest. WLB STC discussed posting a flyer about this on the WLB website.

F. Public Comment

- None

G. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by Ellen and approved by all at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kellie Campbell
STC Secretary