

Peapack-Gladstone Environmental & Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22nd, 2024

Start time: 7.35 pm.

End Time: 8.50 pm.

Attendees:

John Kappler

Sarah Heck

Andrew Goode

Isabel Corbin

Stellario D'Urso

Justice Lettich

A quorum was established (minimum 3) with 6 members present.

Significant Discussion:

- Minutes
 - The minutes for the 03/25/2024 meeting were approved.
- Next meeting:
 - will be held in person on 6/3. All meetings for the remainder of the year will be held in person. In November a decision will have to be made for 2025.
- Communication:
 - The Nextdoor page cannot be set up as a “business”. Nextdoor suggests setting it up as a Public Agency page and for that, we will need to use an official email address. John will revert back with a decision to use his email address.
- Beautification:
 - A material list for \$600 is needed for the Garden Club and a PO needs to be created. More funds could be available.
- Invasive species:
 - Japanese knotweed in previously treated areas came back. The contractor advised that multiple treatments might be needed to solve the problem permanently.
 - Bamboo: Andrew has been discussing with Brad Fagan and the council regarding what we want to do. Brad has received got one quotation so far and is waiting for two more. The project will involve two phases: the part that's encroached into the field, they want to remove completely and then put a barrier around the bamboo that is in the timber.

- Trails:
 - Budget: John reports that there is a budget for trails that has been funded for the past four years at 35,000 a clip. So there is a total of \$140,000 between four accounts.
 - Eagle Scouts have expressed an interest in taking on this project, including fund raising.
- Water Quality:
 - The stream clean-up took place as planned on April 20th. Gladstone had about 10 volunteers and Peapack 20. Overall, there was much less garbage than last year (about 1/4th).