

Peapack-Gladstone Environmental & Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25th, 2024

Start time: 7.35 pm.

End Time: 8.10 pm.

Attendees:

Sarah Heck

Jamie Murphy

Andrew Goode

Isabel Corbin

Stellarino D'Urso

A quorum was established (minimum 3) with 5 members present.

Significant Discussion:

- Somerset Hills Garden Club: Isabel to meet with Teri Reid on March 26th. A motion to approve the meeting was approved.
- The next meeting will be online on April 22nd.
- Andrew updated the commission on his meeting with Brad and John for the removal of bamboo in one area and work out the cheapest and easiest way to install the barrier through the trees, so as not to damage the tree roots. A finalized plan and its cost will follow.
- Stream cleanup is going to be on the 20th from nine to 11. There are two spots you can show up at the firehouse or the Peapack train station.
- Steep slope ordinance: Greg Yannaccone is going to rewrite it and he's going to take out the tree part because that's added in another ordinance. And he's going to make the checklist from four pages to one.
- Isabel related that John asked us to brainstorm ideas for a \$1500 grant that is available. We didn't get it for the treatment of Japanese knotweed. These ideas were discussed:
 - Signage for trails
 - Additional trees for Rockabye Meadows
 - Replacement bench at Rockabye as well as additional bulbs
- Dead trees on the western bank of Rockabye: they are on private property, and they need to come down. Brad and someone on his team will notify the landholders that these trees should come down because some of them are a safety hazard. The cost of removal is the owner's responsibility.

- Social media presence: Isabel and Stellario presented the idea of a dedicated Commission page on Nextdoor designed to communicate to the township relevant content regularly. Content should be written in an easy-to-consume way and the page should be regularly monitored to answer potential questions and comments. Considering the arrival of the Spring/Summer season we discussed how relevant posts about trails could be for example. Stellario will propose a calendar of postings for the next few months as well as work out the logistics to set up this page.
- Minutes
 - The minutes for the 02/26/2024 meeting were approved.