

Shade Tree Commission July 12, 2021

Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission (HCSTC) met on the above in the large assembly room in Building #1 of the Route 12 County Complex. The meeting notice is in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Members Present: Bill Wild, Tom Mathews, Neil Hendrickson, Hans Hanbicki, Keith Decker

Absent: Dan Bush

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Minutes:

Minutes of May 10, 2021 were approved

Public Participation:

- None

Correspondence:

- Email from Gail Harrje, Grant Assistant, NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry reminding the HCSTC to obtain NJUCF CEU's this year to be grant eligible.

Old Business:

- Beech Leaf Disease- Found in Bergen and Hudson County's. So far, no cure has been found yet.
- Emerald Ash Borer- Talked about how Ash Trees are showing decline and starting to drop their limbs. They will begin to rot at the base. It is imperative that the untreated trees be removed as timely as possible. The more time that passes the more brittle and unpredictable the trees become. The "more dead" the ash tree is the more dangerous and expensive the removal will be. The HCSTC debated on if they should present and advise the Board of Commissioners that they need a removal plan in place, and it needs to be funded. Bill Wild reported that the ash trees at the Clinton Community Center have been treated and are doing well. He reported seeing several dead adult beetles on some of the paved areas at the center just days after the treatment.
- Spotted Lantern Fly- nothing new reported
- Bacteria Leaf Scorch- The large amount of rain the area has received (5 inches above normal) has slowed BLS. However, if we get a drought in August, we could see heavy signs of BLS.
- 300 Nursery- Still need to be mowed showing some signs of die off and deer damage.

New Business:

- Cicadas- The 17-year cicadas have come and gone but there was discussion on how in some areas there are heavy signs of "flagging". Flagging is when the leaves turn brown at the end branches due to the damage cause by the female cicadas laying their eggs by slicing into the branches.
- Annual Shade Tree Conference- will be the 3rd week in October in Cherry Hill. Will need to know who is going at the next meeting.
- Hunterdon Counts Ag fair- the HCSTC will team up with Parks to have educational material at this year's fair.

- North Branch County Library- Bill Wild reported there are 10 to 12 trees that need the landscape fabric removed from around the trunk.
- Website- Website looks good, lots of educational information on it. Member names need updating.

Next meeting will be September 13, 2021, 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09.