

Shade Tree Commission May 10, 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 March 8, 2021 were approved

Public Participation:

- None

Correspondence:

- None

Old Business:

- ~~Emerald Ash Borer~~- Tom and Neil reported that the County and Readington Township have been experiencing an increase in resident phone calls inquiring about dead ash tree removal. Tom reported the County has been removing ash and other hazardous trees with subcontractors when resurfacing a roadway. Money was requested in the 2021 Capital budget for a separate hazardous tree removal project. Hunterdon County Parks is conducting their own hazardous tree removal project in their high traffic areas. Picnic and campsite areas remain closed until the trees can be removed. EAB are getting ready to emerge in the upcoming weeks.
- ~~Spotted Lantern Fly~~- nothing new reported
- ~~Beech Leaf Disease~~- nothing new reported
- ~~Bacteria Leaf Scorch~~- seen heavily in Mercer County and Lambertville area.

The STC had a lengthy and educational discussion on different chemicals and treatments to combat the above tree ailments.

Arbor Day- The STC was happy with the placement of the Honey Locust at the Cedars Pavilion at Deer Path Park. Tree should remain unstaked. Others planted that day are already staked. The HCSTC is interested in checking on the trees in the future to see if there is a difference between the staked and unstaked.

300 Nursery- Tom will have County forces mow and reference area.

New Business:

- Cicadas- They should be emerging in the next few weeks when the soil temperature rises. Dogwoods and young oak trees are the most susceptible to damage. Chemical treatments for grubs have been known to kill cicadas. Fun fact: In heavily infested areas there can be 1.5 million cicadas per acre.
- Biochar- Neil and Keith explained the use of biochar as a soil amendment and its positive effects when used during tree planting.

- Next meeting will be July 12, 2021, 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.