

Shade Tree Commission's Response to Certified Tree Expert Reports

At our 10/8/15 Shade Tree Commission meeting, a copy of a Certified Tree Expert report pertaining to Main Street was distributed to attendees. We obtained a professional consultation to determine the plausibility of planting new trees and beautifying the village and we wanted to review the cut outs, identify hazard trees, review the lawn strips, and identify the right tree species to plant on Main Street.

We also obtained a report for Buddtown Road between Route 206 and Main Street and for a tree at the municipal building. This report was obtained to determine why three trees on Buddtown Road and one on Retreat Road died this year and to determine the plausibility of planting new trees here as well to replace those lost.

The Commission has thoroughly reviewed this report and here is a summary of where things stands.

- The 3 hazard tree locations were forwarded to the Twp. Administrator to pass onto the county to review for further action.
- For all of the other recommendations, we are waiting to take additional action until a community engagement workshop is held in the spring.
- The title of this planned workshop will be "Right Tree-Right Place Community Engagement Workshop".
- Main Street is a Burlington County Right-of-Way and a lot of coordination will be required before moving forward with any project.
- Therefore, this could delay any planting/sidewalk cutout improvement project on Main Street.
- We are going to request funding in the 2016 budget to obtain a professional opinion for the remaining streets in Vincentown.
- This will allow us to focus on planting/sidewalk cutout improvement on municipal roads while we work out Main St. logistics.
- Keep in mind any work requires a source of funding. The Commission has been reviewing several grant opportunities.
- These grants would fund the tree planting, planting planning, sidewalk cutout improvements, and EAB resiliency.
- The Commission is also preparing a budget request for 2016 to the Township Committee.
- This budget request will take into account the recommendations from this report and the upcoming grants.

- The Commission has been working to establish partnerships with the local garden clubs and tree foundations to assist with any projects.
- We have also discussed creating an arboretum on a section of the Good Farm (municipal owned, 226 acres).
- However, we have been advised that the Twp. Committee is not any closer to finalizing the plans for the Good Farm parcel.
- The Commission has expressed its frustration to our liaison as it has really held us back from a perfect tree planting and civic engagement opportunity.
- For Buddtown Road, the dead trees will be removed. Replacements will be worked out with the county.
- The Commission has made it a top priority to replace the trees lost and plant new trees in Vincentown.
- The Commission has also made it a top priority to protect healthy trees from any insect or bacterial pressures in Vincentown.

