**Shade Tree Commission**

Members

Christopher Squazzo

Marge Howley

Kevin Murphy—Member - 5 year term to 10/24/2021

Renee Papaneri---Alternate#2 – 4 year term to 10/24/2020

James Rhodes

Betty Brookes—Shade Tree Secretary

On February 26, 2008, the Township Commissioners passed Resolution #2008­039, to ratify the Haddon Township Shade Tree Commission ("STC"). With this bold move, all trees and woody shrubs lining the roads of the Township and all municipal owned properties and wooded parcels that are less than 0.5 acres are now protected under the Shade Tree Management Act of New Jersey. The STC is responsible for assessing the overall health of each tree, preparing applications for grants to purchase new trees and equipment, and developing administrative procedures for any proposed activities that will impact our trees.

The top priority of the STC is to plant, protect, preserve, care, grow and manage our shade trees and forest canopy through the process of assessing each tree and determining its hazard classification based on a scale from 0­12 (12 being the highest hazard). We use the "Tree Hazard Evaluation Form" created by the International Society of Arboriculture. This is a scientific and honest approach to evaluate our trees. All hazard trees will be removed based on their hazard rating. We then prioritize the trees that are healthy, but simply need maintenance pruning; pruning these trees increases the overall health of the tree and enhances the aesthetics of our town. Then, we identify locations for future trees to be planted. The STC estimates that we can plant 90­100 trees per year throughout the entire Township. Trees will mostly be native with some selected non­native species, non­invasive, and fitted properly for the space between the sidewalk and the road following the current smart planting practices.

Every year the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry offers up matching grants to eligible municipalities. Now that Haddon Township has an approved "Community Forestry Management Plan", we are eligible for matching grants up to $25,000. The matching funds from the Township will come in the form of labor to manage and plant the trees as long as funds continue to be allocated by the State.

Please feel free to contact the STC at shadetrees@haddontwp.com or to **request a shade tree** for your home (you will be placed on our list). Use this email for any questions or requests you may have regarding township shade trees.

The STC is currently ironing out procedures for any proposed activities that will impact a jurisdictional shade tree. A majority of the time the Township, through crews from the Department of Public Works, will be taking care of the trees, however, a resident does have the right to hire a contractor to plant a new tree, prune, or remove an existing shade tree with the approval and proper permit obtained through the twp. Approval of tree work to be done on existing trees is decided based on the assessment of the tree and a majority decision made by the Commission. To prune a tree, the insured tree service or resident must obtain a permit (free) for commencement of work. To plant a new tree, simply notify the STC to approve the species. Certain species do not make good shade trees and end up costing more than they are worth in the long run, so the STC wants to make sure that Haddon Township plants smart.

 We believe that these changes to the management of our shade trees will not only help increase the potential of our Township, but will also help create a healthier, greener more desirable place to live, work and play.

**Board Composition**

The Commission includes 5 members plus no more than 2 alternate members.

**Meetings**

The Shade Tree Commission conducts its meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month except for the months of July, August and November, in the Haddon Township Environmental and Historical Center at 143 E. Ormond Ave. Please check the Municipal calendar for meeting date in December. The meetings will convene at 7:00 PM. For More Information More information on the Shade Tree Commission can be found in Chapter 197 of the Code of the Township of Haddon online <http://www.ecode360.com/?custId=HA0576> or through the Municipal Clerk’s Office.