

Watchung Environmental Commission

Minutes

October 27, 2014

Present: Sondra Epstein, Jean Forlano, Karen Pennett, Don Pote, Andy & Jim Stout

Absent: Pam Lewis, Rob Gibbs

The meeting was called to order by Jean Forlano at 7:30 pm

**Minutes**

- May, 2014 approved with addition of tree report
- September 2014 minutes approved with corrections

**Tree Matters**

- Sondra recommended to place 2 items on the town website
  - The New Jersey Department of Agriculture press release Invasive Emerald Ash Borer Detected in New Jersey. Explaining how the wood from these trees should not be removed from the property. It spreads the disease. All agreed
  - Ten plants to consider based on Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy. Since not enough information known about this article, voted not to put on the website.
- Violation letter issued by Boro engineer at 180 Washington Drive on 9/23/2014
  - 9/24/2014 50 Friar Lane. \$400 paid to tree bank for removal of 2 live trees.
  - 9/23/2014 645 Johnston drive 4 dead trees to be removed
  - 9/17/2014 92 Ellisen Rd. 3 dead trees to be removed

**Tree Report**

- See September and October Tree Report attached

**Planning Board**

Subdivision 441 Valley Road. Currently one house on property. Property to be subdivided into two lots. Existing house to remain, new house to be built on one part of subdivision. No variances required.

**Correspondence**

- reviewed

Next regular meeting: Monday November 24 at Borough Hall. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Pennett

Watchung Environmental Commission

## September and October 2014 Tree Report

9/11/2014: 65 Hill Hollow Road, knock down of original house, New house to be built by Elite Builders  
47 trees to be removed: replace 23 @2 ½", 7 @4"

9/11/2014: 270 Valley Drive, new construction off subdivided lot, Boro engineer and environmental commission walked the lot with the builder to be assured of what trees were to be removed. There were 4 inspections; 18 trees to be removed; replace 12 trees @2 ½'

10/3/2014: 67 Glen Eagle Rd, 10 dead trees to be removed, a state entomologist, Paul Kurtz, had looked at these trees and said they were infected with ASH YELLOW A MYCOPLASMID LIKE ORGANISM (MLO). They could be removed from the location without spreading the disease

10/3/2014: 25 Timberline 5 dead trees removed and several small trees. On 9/10/2014 a neighbor called the police to stop the cutting. The Boro engineer arrived later. The owner's representative had been at Boro asking if brush clean up needed a permit. A violation letter was issued 9/23/2014. The owner was responsive with photos of the stumps that were cut and the Boro engineer and Sondra Epstein agreed that healthy trees above 4 inches thick were not removed.

10/9/2014 98 Will Lane: 9 trees to be removed, 8 dead or dangerous , 1 live. replace 1 @2 ½ "