



ALPINE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2012

The Alpine Environmental Commission (EC) remains very active protecting our natural resources especially keeping our community treed and green. The Alpine Tree Ordinance requires the EC to do a site inspection on all properties that are planning to remove multiple trees. The site inspection is orchestrated through our Building Dept. Prior to visiting the site the EC receives a site plan identifying the trees to be removed. The EC then visits the site to visualize the trees marked on site to be removed. The EC then either **approves tree removal, approves tree removal with conditions or does not approve tree removal with an explanation.**

The Borough Tree Ordinance was revised in 2007 establishing a formula for tree replacement when protected trees have to be removed. In these situations the town engineer determines the amount of the tree bond and the number of trees that require replacement based on the established tree replacement formula. A landscape plan is then provided to the town engineer and EC showing the plan for tree replacement. The tree bond will not be returned until the tree replacement is satisfied. We especially try to protect and save trees in the buffer areas between properties and in the rear of the property hopefully to maintain privacy and a green treed community.

The EC meets on the 4th Thursday of each month for a formal meeting, site inspection and/or a combination of both.

In 2012 the EC

- Held 4 formal meetings.
- Inspected 8 major sites, 2 sites required return visits due to additional tree removal requests or trees to be removed on the site plan visit did not mirror the trees marked on site to be removed.
- Inspected 5 properties for Tree Bond return.
- Celebrated Arbor Day on April 29.
- Displayed an Arbor Day poster in Borough Hall 2 weeks prior to Arbor Day to advertise the Arbor Day celebration.

- Involved the Alpine school children in the Arbor Day celebration by displaying their very creative posters in Borough Hall for 2 weeks prior to Arbor Day, (see Alpine's web site for the children's posters, www.alpinenj07620.org).
- Planted an Arbor Day seedling in the borough's Church St. Park, (see attached picture).
- Included an EC informational flier in a town mailing for tax assessments.
- Informed all Alpine's residents of achieving Tree City USA for the 11th year, receiving the Tree City Growth award for the 4th year, and designating our Borough Hall Centennial tree as a Landmark Tree. This was done with a Mayor and Council mailing to the town.
- The web site is constantly updated to remain current.