

ALPINE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK SHEET 2021

The Alpine Environmental Commission which has tree preservation as its main focus continued to do all they could within the COVID 19 restrictions and controls. We did celebrate Arbor Day without interacting with borough citizens.

Mayor Tomasko signed a proclamation declaring May 1, 2021 as Arbor Day in Alpine. The proclamation was displayed in Borough Hall.

- A poster promoting the celebration was also displayed in Borough Hall.
- The celebration was announced in the Mayor & Council mailing.
- The Arbor Day flag was hung in Borough Hall.
- Posters created by elementary grade school children with the theme “Benefits of Trees” were displayed in Borough Hall 2 weeks before Arbor Day & 2 weeks after.

EC Activities

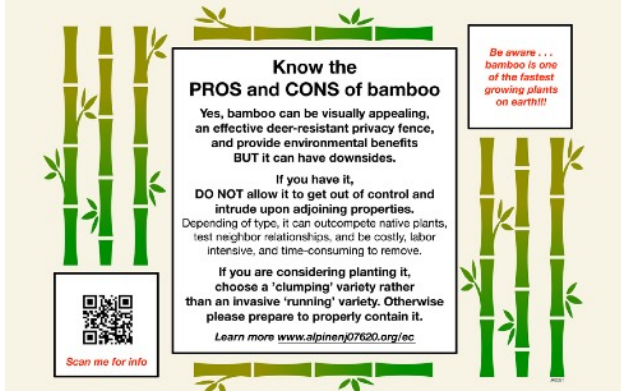
The EC held 8 formal meetings after which we did site inspections for tree removal & 4 informal meetings where we only did site visits for proposed tree removal. The Building Dept requires a signed tree removal permit by the EC prior to granting a tree removal permit. The EC visited 24 sites for either tree removal or tree bond returns which the EC also signs off. Two of these sites required 2 visits.

The EC was requested by the DPW to review with the DPW, 6 trees that were girdled and needed a decision on their future. The trees were designated dangerous and had to be removed.

The EC was called to two sites where trees were being removed without a “Tree Removal Permit”. Stop work orders were placed on both properties until all the proper Alpine procedures were processed and adhered to.

The Alpine Tree Ordinance was revised to clarify those responsible for enforcing the ordinance and an adjustment was made to the tree replacement formula.

The EC composed detailed information regarding the Pros & Cons of Bamboo and posted it to the borough’s web site to alert residents that certain varieties are invasive and can outcompete native plants, test neighbor relationships, and be costly, labor intensive, and time consuming to remove. A poster was displayed in Borough Hall to publicize the availability of this information.



Know the PROS and CONS of bamboo

Yes, bamboo can be visually appealing, an effective deer-resistant privacy fence, and provide environmental benefits **BUT** it can have downsides.

If you have it, **DO NOT** allow it to get out of control and intrude upon adjoining properties. Depending of type, it can outcompete native plants, test neighbor relationships, and be costly, labor intensive, and time-consuming to remove.

If you are considering planting it, choose a 'clumping' variety rather than an invasive 'running' variety. Otherwise please prepare to properly contain it.

Learn more www.alpinenj07620.org/ec

Be aware . . . bamboo is one of the fastest growing plants on earth!!!

Scan me for info

The EC identified deciduous and evergreen trees in Alpine and highlighted their unique characteristics in educational pamphlets and videos posted to its web site. Residents were encouraged to appreciate nature by taking a look at 'Alpine Up Close' and then making their own amazing discoveries.



Three members attended a seminar on creating a tree nursery. The seminar qualified for 1.5CEU's approved by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Forestry Service.

We again worked for and are applying for "The Extra Growth Award". The activities submitted are;

C1 5 points - Ordinance Clauses

After consultation between members of the Borough's Environmental Commission and the Dept of Public Works, amendments to the Tree Ordinance were introduced to the Mayor and Council on September 22, 2021 and subsequently adopted on October 27, 2021.

Clauses were added modifying the duties of the Environmental Commission, the definition of the size of trees to be regulated, the definition of a Tree Expert (arborist), and responsibility for Enforcement of the Ordinance.

D15 4 points - Tree Debris Recycling

- Residents were advised via newsletter from the Mayor and Council that brush is picked up and chipped from sides of roadways by the DPW from May thru September followed by leaf pickup thru December 6, 2021, and curb side pickup of Christmas Trees ending January 10, 2022.
- Alpine recycles wood by regular chipping.
- Leaves are collected and stored where they turn into mulch.
- The wood chips & leaf mulch are available to residents free.
- Excess mulch is under contract to go to a near by town,
- All the wood chips stay in Alpine.
- The Standard-3 Worksheet for 2021 reflects a cost of \$14,200 for equipment rental.

E20 2 points - Arbor Day Events

The Alpine Environmental Commission co-ordinated with the Alpine Public School in order for teachers to educate children about Arbor Day and to facilitate artistic expressions in the form of posters which were displayed in our Borough Hall. The posters were created by 79 elementary school children and were also posted to our web site.

To further commemorate Arbor Day, members of Alpine's EC joined the borough's mayor, members of Alpine's DPW and members of Dumont's Shade Tree Commission for a tree planting at Alpine's Memorial Rock. The tree, a Redbud, was donated to the town by a member of the EC.

Please see the Alpine EC web site for additional information,
www.alpinenj07620.org/ec

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Mattes
Chair, Environmental Commission