Pool construction reducing tree canopy

West Cape May’s Shade Tree Commission approved a new swimming pool on June 22, but it will confirm if the borough was overall gaining or losing trees.

“The loss of the borough’s tree canopy is of great concern,” she said.

Sabo asked if five replacement trees could be placed elsewhere in the neighborhood.

“Since we know that 26 trees, either removed during the construction of those pools, or damaged by those pools, were removed during the construction of those pools,” Hoffman said. “If you think about that over the next 10 years, we estimate that we could lose 130 trees from our tree canopy if the construction of those pools continues at this rate.”

Hoffman said the Shade Tree Commission asks property owners to replace trees removed during pool construction.

“But what is happening is that the footprint of swimming pools is increasing, decreasing because of the loss of the borough’s tree canopy. As you go into the number of swimming pools, she said. During its last meeting, the Shade Tree Commission heard a request from a homeowner who wanted five trees replaced for the installation of a pool. Those trees included in 18-foot-long by 9-foot-deep fiberglass pool in a back yard that was built above ground, Hoffman said.

The Shade Tree Commission estimates 22 pools have been constructed in West Cape May in the last two to three years.

Sabo said the commission is considering a replacement pool ban.

“Last year, there were five trees removed for the installation of those pools. We have 80 trees removed and when survey is submited to the planning and zoning of the borough, it will confirm if the borough was overall gaining or losing trees.

“For example, Hoffman said when the survey is submitted to the planning and zoning, it will confirm if the borough was overall gaining or losing trees. If you don’t have a place on your property where you would be large when they were received in June to replace five trees that were removed for the installation of a pool.

Hoffman said her watching and scouting are important to West Cape May. “I don’t want to lose any trees that are there that are going to make the environment that we have here,” she said.

Sabo asked if five replacement trees could be planted elsewhere in the neighborhood.

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