

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC18) Meeting Minutes Monthly Meeting

February 25, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Joe Torres

Kristin Ace

Louise Witt

Members absent:

Karl Roettger

Michael Rockland

Anne Bertucci

I. Roll call

II. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)

made by Tina at 7:05.

III. **Tree Request Form:** Joe Torres completed the tree request form that will be posted on the town website. **ACTION:** Joe will give it to Kristen to post on Town website under Shade Tree Commission.

IV. **Spring Planting:** Kristin got the posters that she designed printed. The poster lets people know that they can request a tree for the public property in front of their house. We all volunteered some streets that we will post posters on. Rich sent Tina the plan for redoing some South Street sidewalks, between Elm and James St. We will hold off on planting that empty well in that area, until the hardscape is finished. The press release is being approved by the mayor, and should be released this week.

V. **Press Release #2, Call to Action:** Louise wrote a press release for requests for trees from property owners. A few minor changes were made to the document. Louise suggested we attach a link for the Shade Tree Commission Tree Request Form to go along with the press release. Chantal motioned to approve the release. All voted yes. **ACTION:** Louise will get the press release to Kristen(mayor's office) and Michael Rogers for approval and release.

VI. **268 South Street Issue:** Business owner wants to take down 2 trees that block full view of his sign. (Property is between Best Western and Tracey Park). The trees are well established at the site; i.e. they are not new trees. The sign is new

and the tenants were fully aware of the trees when they moved in. However, the county has control of that area, and it is county responsibility. Since the location impact Morristown directly, and the town is making a considerable investment to plant additional trees on South Street the STC should have input on the final decision. Tina motioned to decline the request to permit the removal of the trees, Joe seconded motion and the STC unanimously supported the motion.

VII. Arbor Day: Our Event will be on Saturday, April 26th, at 11:00am. STC decided to do the event at Tracy Park. We will ask Rich to recommend a nice plan, then approach Kathleen Margiotta (on the DPW and is involved with upkeep of Tracy Park) for input. STC would like to invite the town council and veterans to the event also. We will plant a tree, and Mayor Dougherty has agreed to attend. The ceremonial planting will be done by the mayor and the STC members. **ACTION:** Tina will reach out to the mayor, Kristin will reach out to Kathleen M. to have input and to work together on this project. We envision that the mayor will speak, the STC will speak, and the Morristown Environmental Commission will speak, followed by a ceremonial tree planting. The STC extends a thank you to Rich Wolowitz who provided a comprehensive list of tasks to consider when planning an Arbor Day ceremony.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned 8:20.