

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC22) Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Joe Torres

Kristin Ace

Louise Witt

Anne Bertucci

Members absent:

Karl Roettger

Michael Rockland

Guests:

Rich Wolowitz

Samantha Rothman

Benjamin Lyons

I. Roll call

II. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)
made by Tina at 7:05.

III. Frequency of meetings during the summer: Kristin stated the need for twice monthly meetings as we have been doing so far this year. Everyone stated preferences. Tina made a motion to vote to have meetings twice a month (second and fourth Tuesday) thru the summer. Chantal seconded the motion and everyone voted yes.

IV. Approved Status: ACTION: Kristin will check to see if we have approved status from the NJ Community Forestry Program. She will inform us of status.

V. Community Forestry Management Plan: Samantha was involved in this project the first time Morristown put this plan out. There was a grant for it. The STC will have to put this project out to bid. Paul Cowie & Associates did it the first time (4 years ago). **ACTION:** Tina will check with Michael Rogers to see procedure. Samantha feels it will not be too expensive this time, since we are making changes to the original document

VI. Arbor Day: Tree should have been picked up today and brought to Tracy Park. Rich has marked the spot, and will have clean tools there. We are all set for 10:00 am on Saturday, April 26th. STC should all arrive at 9:30. Mayor will speak first, then Louise will speak on behalf of the MEC, and Tina will speak last. Rich is

taking care of the logistics. Kristin will contact Kevin at Morristown Green for press. Mrs. Tracy is coming.

- VII. Tree requests: 15 Washington Place:** There are 2 trees on his property that Benjamin Lyons feels are a safety issue. He attended our meeting to tell us that he would like the STC to check on these trees; a sycamore and the other is possibly a maple. **ACTION:** Rich will go see the property on Friday, and determine whether it is a town tree. We will discuss at next meeting.
- VIII. Billboards at 96 Speedwell:** Owner of the billboards has asked for trees to be trimmed in front of billboards that are above building. She then learned that trees are on state property, and will call them for a permit to trim trees. Rich will put them on our trimming schedule.
- IX. Town Hall Parking Lot:** There are trucks and bulldozers parked in the town hall parking lot. They are parked right up on trees, breaking branches etc. **ACTION:** Rich will talk to Jeff Hartke about the problem.
- X. Arbor Day Proclamation:** The STC appeared before the town council meeting today for the yearly proclamation. Louise provided it, and Mayor Tim read it. Tina invited the public to the Arbor Day Celebration on April 26th.
- XI. Acorn Hall:** They have lost 250 trees in the back. Rich will do a walk by and give recommendations, but this is not public property. It is Morris County Parks property.
- XII. Phase 1:** Ascape Landscape Co. will be in town for 2 days to do the planting. They will be finished by May 9th. Rich will supervise.
- XIII. Phase 11:** There has not been much interest from residents. We will plant the list that we have, and STC will plan a Fall Planting. Samantha from Grow it Green Morristown offered a table and advertising at their fundraiser on September 13th. Anytime we have an appeal to get out to the public, we should talk to GGM and they can attach to their blasts.
- XIV. Island off of 287 and Ridgedale:** They are building new apartments across from the Mercedes Showroom. The town had asked the developer to plant the island, but this was maybe two years ago. This item should be revisited.
- XV. How to Report a tree issue:** Kristin volunteered to try our own process to see how it works. We need to discuss how to make it easier for residents to find us.
- XVI. CEU's:** Rich is teaching a class this summer for the STC, but everyone is encouraged to take another class this year. **ACTION:** Look for classes to take.
- XVII. Tree Inventory:** Rich will be starting to update tree inventory.
- XVIII. Tree USA:** Louise and Kristin will work together. This should be completed by November.
- XIX. Jersey Central:** Rich has invited the corporate forester-Bob Lee, and a supervisor from Jaflo Tree who will be doing the trimming. They will be at our next meeting, May 13th.

XX.Meeting adjourned 8:30