

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC25) Meeting Minutes Monthly Meeting

June 10, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Karl Roettger

Anne Bertucci

Joe Torres

Kristin Ace

Michael Rockland

Louise Witt

Members absent:

Guests: Richard Wolowicz

1. Roll call

2. Minutes: Meeting of May 13, 2014. Tina motioned to approve minutes, Kristin seconded. All approved.

3. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law) made by Tina at 7:00.

4. Recent tree requests/issues:

- **18 Erskin:** Recent owners backyard backs up to a town park. They want to install a fence so that park goers can't see into their backyard. There is a 43' white oak that is on town property that is in the path of the fence line. Rich and Jeff Hartke visited the property. Rich told owner that it was unlikely that the town would agree to remove the huge oak. Kristin visited site today, and owners were digging fence posts, and harming the park trees roots. Kristin motioned for a vote for a stop order on fence building for property owner. Louise seconded motion. All voted yes for the stop order. **ACTION:** Tina will send an email tonight to Code enforcement, the Building Dept., the Town Administrator and the DPW with our concerns.
- **28 Cutler:** Stephan Armington wants his street tree pruned to allow light to reach his new tree in his yard. Rich looked at the horse chestnut tree, and it definitely needs pruning. Tina made a motion to have DPW prune the tree according to Rich's specifications. Kristin seconded motion. All voted yes. Rich will add tree to pruning list. **Action:** Tina will email Stephan.

- **Tracy Park:** Kathleen Margiotti wants to plant azalea bushes around the monument in Tracy Park. Kristin and Karl wanted to know the complete concept plan for planting at the park. Kristin has noticed that the park is over-mulched, and a few trees are suffocating. Rich did not think this was the case though. Karl mentioned that a matching redbud on the other side of the monument would add balance to the design. Louise brought up that the Planning Dept. in Morristown might be involved in the design of a concept plan for the park. She thought maybe Kathleen should ask the town planners. **ACTION:** Louise will talk to Phil Abramson (Town Planner). Karl will reach out to Kathleen Margiotti. The \$150. given by Mrs. Tracy's grandsons could cover the cost of a matching redbud. Tina motioned to plant a redbud, Kristin seconded motion. All agreed. **ACTION:** Tina will contact Mrs. Tracy and let her know. The STC will discuss possibility of placing a plaque with the donors name. We haven't set protocol for labeling donations yet.
 - **Emerald Ash Borer:** Rich reported that 12 trees in a mall parking lot in Bridgewater have the Emerald Ash Borer. Authorities will put our state on quarantine. Kristin has written a short article to send out to Kevin Coughlin. She motioned (Karl seconded) to put notice out to Michael Rogers to post article thru the town channels. All agreed. **Action:** Tina to forward Kristin's article to MR for distribution.
 - **Hill Street Pear Damage:** Joe Torres saw a damaged tree on Hill Street- American Paving damaged tree while paving a parking lot. **ACTION:** Rich will get appraised value of tree and give to Jeff Hartke.
 - **Dead trees on Speedwell Streetscape project replace trees:** Rich will get exact address on trees on Speedwell and have contractor.
5. **Tree Crew Schedule:** Kristin would like to see our town on a pruning schedule. The watering schedule is as follows: Rich contacts contractor when to water new trees from Spring Planting. After contractor does his 4 watering turns, the town DPW takes over.
6. **Killing Pear trees at the Great Swamp:** Louise talked to someone who learned that at the Great Swamp, they poisoned many pear trees because they are an invasive species. We would like to know what poison they used and what effect it has on the environment. **Action:** Joe will investigate and report back.

7. **Meeting:** Mayor Tim, Michael Rogers, Vij, Louise, Tina and Kristin attended a meeting to iron out some STC procedures. Procedure: People must go to Building Department Zoning Board before coming to the STC for tree issues. The town will add STC onto all forms for town planning. **ACTION:** Louise will ask Michael Rogers to talk to James Campbell about procedure. Then timelines for the STC were discussed. There is no reason why the STC would have to have a time constraint, and all agreed. STC also wanted to get permission from county parks to let us make decisions about county trees planted in Morristown.

8. **Tree tour with mayor:** June 20th, 4:30. Meet in front of Roots on the green. Anyone from STC is invited on the walking tour.

9. **Risk assessment forms:** Louise is interested in looking at one system to assess trees in a standardized approach. **ACTION:** Rich will look at them, and report his opinion.

10. **33 Speedwell Place:** 2 large ash trees. Carpenter ants have inhabited a huge branch and created a hollow. Rich needs to inspect- one of them sounded hollow. DPW will inspect. STC will get an update.

11. **CORE training:** Shade Tree annual conference is on October 25-26th in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Anne will check to see if Princeton's STC has any courses or workshops offered.

12. **Meeting Adjourned** at 8:45.