

## **Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC26) Meeting Minutes Monthly Meeting**

June 24, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

### **Members present:**

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Karl Roettger

Joe Torres

Kristin Ace ~ acting secretary

### **Members absent:**

Louise Witt

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Anne Bertucci

Michael Rockland

**Guest:** Richard Wolowicz

### **I. Roll call**

### **II. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law) made by Tina at 7:01.**

### **III. Recent Tree request/Issues/updates**

- a. 268 South Street ~ Jim Byron cannot attend any STC meetings therefore the STC needed to vote on his issue without his presence. We voted unanimously not to remove the cherry trees on his property. Rich Wolowicz will prune the branches up this year and the next to clean up the trees and make the sign more visible than it already is. **ACTION:** Tina will reach out to Mr. Byron with our decision. **ACTION:** Rich will do the first phase of the pruning of the tree.
- b. GIGM - Early Street ~ Carolle Huber will present us with a plan when they are ready.
- c. Pears on South ~ Rich is still investigating the soil for possible cement runoff, but, thinks that there may be a fungus as well that has affected the 3 large pear trees in front of the Iron Bar.

### **IV. Tree Tour with the Mayor ~ update:** Tina, Joe, Louise, Kristin, Chantal & Rich met with Mayor Dougherty in front of Roots restaurant at 500pm. They walked from there around South, Market, Maple, Dehart and back to South again. From there they walked on South to Elm Street on one side then crossed and walked back down South to Roots again. The Mayor had many

questions regarding tree species, why some were failing, and why we planted what we did. He discussed his desire to bring the Morristown canopy back and the practices he witnessed in Washington DC ~ bigger wells for the trees, 3 foot metal barriers around the tree to prevent soil compaction and possible passerby damage. The Mayor would like to do several more walk abouts and will have Kristen W. contact Tina with times.

- V. **Fall Tree Planting:** We discussed writing a press release to inform the residents about a fall tree planting. We also decided to do an outreach by dropping flyers at homes adjacent to where the new trees will be planted on town property. We will not do massive planting because we do not yet have a full inventory. STC members will each be assigned a ward at the next meeting to walk and see where we need trees. **ACTION:** Rich will prepare planting locations for fall planting. **ACTION:** Tina will forward Kristin her Arbor Day speech for the benefits of trees to be placed on the flyer. Kristin will make a mock up flyer to vote on at the next meeting. **ACTION:** Kristin will get town maps with wards identified.
- VI. **Tracy Park update:** Karl reached out to Kathleen Margiotta to initiate a positive working relationship and be the liaison between her and the STC. She did not think it was "necessary because she expected limited contact with the STC". We talked about the azaleas being planted and the desire for a plan. We voted that anything being planted in a park will be accompanied by a full plan presented to the STC for discussion. Our desire is to eliminate the constant planting/death/replanting cycle that happens in the town. Watering practices and plans will need to be discussed for each plan. **ACTION:** Karl will reach out to Ms. Margiotta, ccing Jeff Hartke, regarding our decision
- VII. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):** We feel it is important to attend the next council meeting to inform the council about the EAB (emerald ash borer). Meeting is July 15. Tina, Kristin and Chantal will attend. **ACTION:** Rich will check his schedule to see if he can make the council meeting.
- VIII. **New Chair and Secretary:** The STC must vote for a new chair and secretary but have decided to wait until all members of the STC are present.
- IX. **Awareness Campaign and Protocols:** We have moved the topics of Awareness Campaign and Protocols to the top of our agenda for the next meeting. We will break off into two groups to research and come back to discuss and vote over the next few meetings. **ACTION:** Kristin will send the agenda for the next meeting to Kristen Wedderburn.
- X. **Review all ACTIONS:**
- XI. **Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.**