

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC29) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

August 5, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Karl Roettger

Anne Bertucci

Joe Torres

Louise Witt

Michael Rockland

Members absent: Kristin Ace

Guests: Richard Wolowicz, Carolle Huber and David Oberstein from Grow it Green Morristown

I. Roll call

II. Minutes-28 STC minutes July 22 2014 approved

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

made by Tina at 7:03.

IV. Grow it Green Morristown: David Oberstein and Carolle Huber attended our meeting to present their plan for the Community Garden on Early Street. They would like to remove trees along the east and west fence lines. David stated that the trees have sprung up during the last 5-10 years and make too much shade for the gardeners along the East & West borders. After a year, gardeners tend to request a bed closer to the center, because of the shade issue. Karl had questions: Are the neighbors on board with the plan? (the plumber who owns property on west side gave a verbal ok. Others will need to be approached.) Has the Town approved the plan? (Yes) Tina asked about North fence line- (No trees are being removed on the North end of the property). They will be planting additional trees in the parklet along Early Street. The chain link fence will be removed, and a cedar rail fence with welded wire (for deer) added. Tina shared that her concern is that the deforestation of the East and West sides will be a real loss of green- the backs of those properties are

unsightly. There is a need for some sort of screen. The flooding may increase. Louise had concerns about the rain runoff from the parking lots on East end; removing trees can make this worse. Carolle Huber added that a rain garden is planned for the center of the property, near a drain for rain run-off. Most members were only able to view the property from the outside of the fence. The STC would like to better understand the shade issue and get a closer look at the trees. David offered a tour. ACTION: Tina will ask James Campbell if there is a screening requirement between Speedwell Ave. businesses and the garden. The STC members will plan a visit with David to tour the site from the property. **Miller and Maple:** Construction started at this site without anyone notifying the STC. Tina reported that the Developer had approval for the site plan a few years ago, and just showed up now and started work. The Developer did not notify anyone in Town. This was why the STC wasn't informed. Rich went out to the site to make sure the construction crew were protecting the town trees. Rich then found that they removed a 4-6 caliper town tree. Rich will meet with them this week and report back. ACTION: Rich will ask for approved plan from the zoning office (James Campbell).

V. Proposed Child Care Center: Across from Friendly's (124 & Normandy Parkway) is a heavily forested undeveloped property. There is a proposal in front of the Board of Adjustment for a daycare to be built there. They will be cutting down 146 trees to build the daycare center and parking lot. Louise requested an evaluation by the STC ACTION: Rich will do a site visit and identify any noteworthy town trees along the road that may be worth saving.

VI. Hill Street: Pavement Company had damaged a tree, previously mentioned at past STC meeting. ACTION: Rich will follow-up.

VII. Inventory update: Rich is working at completing the inventory by the end of fall.

VIII. Fall Planting: Bid has gone out for 106 trees to be planted this fall. Rich would like to have a few reserve spots in case of emergency. Planned October planting.

IX. Community Forestry Management plan: Council is voting tonight on approval for Paul Cowie & Associates redoing the plan for our town.

X. Pruning of town trees: Jeff Hartke wants a list of priority pruning streets.

XI. 267 South Street: Cherry trees in front of signage have been pruned- STC was very specific that Rich was to prune the trees. We don't know who trimmed them.

ACTION: Tina will follow up with the property owner.

XII. Meeting with Mayor: Tina is meeting with the mayor on August 28th, at 6pm. Joe and Chantal will attend also.

XIII. Fall Festival: Do we want a table at the fall festival? ACTION: Joe will ask who we could share a table with and get further information. Rich suggested that we could hand out tree volcano mulching flyers from the NJ Shade Tree Federation, and applications for anyone who wants a tree. A general discussion concluded that this year may not be the best timing for our first forey into the Fall Festival. We have been developing an awareness plan but it is still incomplete.

XIV. Stapling to trees: Michael noticed some flyers stapled to town trees. Michael and Vij should be notified if anyone sees anything stapled to any town trees.

XV. Meeting Adjourned: In two weeks we have no regular Shade Tree meeting-it is a day for sub-committee meetings.