

**Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC30) Meeting Minutes**  
**Monthly Meeting**

September 9, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

**Members present:**

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Karl Roettger

Anne Bertucci

Kristin Ace

Joe Torres

Louise Witt

Michael Rockland

**Members absent: none**

**Guests:** Richard Wolowicz

**I. Roll call**

**II. Minutes: 28 STC minutes 22 July 2014 approved. ACTION:** Tina to ask Kristen Wedderburn to post

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

made by Tina at 7:00pm.

**IV. Requests:**

- a. Grow it Green Morristown:** David Oberstein has not gotten back to Tina to schedule a site tour. The STC would like to visit the site to make specific determinations about each tree in the tree removal request. A second or third meeting may be needed when foliage is off the trees. **ACTION:** Tina will reach out to Grow it Green Morristown again.

**V. Updates/discussion**

- a. Meeting with Michael Rogers(MR):** Last week, Tina, Louise and Kristin attended the meeting, along with Jeff Hartke. Update from

meeting: Pruning town trees- The STC asked if it would be possible to hire a contractor to help prune the town trees? The town Tree Crew are busy and it is difficult to predict how much regular maintenance of our trees they will be able to perform. In addition, many trees in town are overdue for routine pruning. MR reported that the Mayor had reached out to MR and Jeff to have them assess the feasibility of this idea a short while ago. They are all supportive of the concept. MR will keep us informed of their assessment.

Rich commented that ALL our town trees need pruning. He has sent a priority list to the town already. Rich stated that if we targeted one fifth of our trees to be pruned every year it could cost around \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year for an outside contractor to do the work (generally it is \$50-\$80 per tree, 600 trees per year, for 5 years). Rich has noted while performing the inventory that there is a lot of deadwood in many of our town trees. There are also many trees that need to be elevated, and to have suckers trimmed: the work involves both ground work and bucket work. Rich proposed that perhaps the DPW could do the ground work, and a contractor could do the deadwood removal in the canopy (bucket work).

Louise wondered which budget this outside contractor would come from; the STC budget for new trees or DPW or some other line item?

**ACTION:** Tina will ask MR where the money would come from for this work.

- b. Grants:** Louise asked if there were grants available for post-sandy tree health . Rich said he didn't think so.
  
- c. Subcommittee reports:** Joe is joining the "protocol/procedure" subcommittee, and Kristin is moving to the "awareness" subcommittee. Both groups will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Next meetings are on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**d. Protocol subcommittee:** The protocol subcommittee drew up a public tree removal request form to be placed on the Town website. Tina felt that one page would be preferable to two. **ACTION:** Kristin will make the changes.

**VI. Stop Work order for JCP&L:** JCP&L have been trimming trees on the power lines in Morristown. They have pruned trees that really should have been removed. Residents have been complaining, and the trees ended up looking battered. This resulted in a Stop Work order. Rich has since met with JCP&L, Michael Rogers and Jeff Hartke (and others) and reset expectations for how Morristown trees should be pruned by JCP&L. **ACTION:** Rich is trying to get funding from JCP&L to plant trees because of all the problems we have had due to their trimming methods.

**VII. Fall planting:** Barbato Nursery may be awarded the contract tonight at the Council meeting since they were the lowest bidder. Rich has obtained input on their work from some previous clients with mixed assessments. This contractor farms out planting work, while he provides the trees. Rich feels that if Barbato does the planting, we need to supervise closely. **ACTION:** Rich will inform the STC when he finds out formally who will be planting the trees for our fall planting project and when.

The STC asked when the dead trees will be replaced from the spring planting. **ACTION:** Rich will find out and report back to the STC.

**VIII. Newsletter from Joe:** Joe wrote an article for the mayor's newsletter. He will send it out by email for STC to review before it is sent to the Mayors office for printing in the Mayor's newsletter.

**IX. Town Arborist contract:** Karl made a motion to approve supporting the renewal of Rich Wolowicz's contract as the town arborist. All voted AYE. **ACTION:** Tina will inform Michael Rogers of the vote.

**X. Meeting adjourned at 8:35.**