

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC31) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

October 14, 2014

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Anne Bertucci

Kristin Ace

Joe Torres

Michael Rockland

Members absent: Karl Roettger, Louise Witt

Guest: Richard Wolowicz

- I. **Roll call**
- II. **Minutes:** approved 29 STC minutes 5 Aug 2014. **ACTION:** Tina to ask Kristen Wedderburn to post.
- III. **Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)**
made by Tina at 7:06 pm.
- IV. **NJ Shade Tree Federation:** The annual Shade Tree Federation Conference is October 24 and 25th in Cherry Hill, NJ. It is recommended for Shade Tree Commissioners to attend and take the CORE training. CORE training will give all members a common understanding of the goals and framework of other STCs, and a good overview of community forestry management. Our commission needs 8 CEU's this year to maintain Approved Status. Kristin and Tina are attending the General Session on Saturday the 25th, contact them if you are interested in going.
- V. **Requests/issues**

- a. **GIGM: Site Tour.** STC will meet with David, Carolle and Samantha on Wednesday, October 22, at 5:15pm at the community garden on Early Street. We will be touring the garden to hear and see what the plan is that they want approved and to see the location and condition of the trees they want removed. A vote will take place at next meeting in November. Note: this tour will be considered a meeting, since more than 3 commissioners will be in attendance.

- b. **Morristown Hospital:** Kristin noticed that the MMH had stapled teal ribbons to the town trees adjacent to the property. She contacted the organizer and asked for the stapled ribbons to be removed from the hospital trees. They agreed to remove them.

- c. **4 Wetmore:** The adjacent homeowners made a request to the Mayor to have the town tree removed because it drops berries that stain the sidewalk. Rich reported that the tree is in good condition. Tina motioned to approve a vote not to remove the tree, Kristin seconded the motion. All vote AYE. ACTION: Tina to inform the Mayor that the STC officially declined to have the tree removed since it is healthy.

- d. **22 Olmstead:** Tina noticed that 2 large limbs had been cut on the sidewalk side of a town tree. The cuts were professional. She is wondering who did the pruning, since it wasn't on our spreadsheet. Rich confirmed that the pruning was not done by DPW. **Action:** Tina will go talk to the homeowners.

- e. **16 Lake Rd.** A resident living adjacent to a very tall Town tree (London Plane) has made a request to have it removed. The resident at this address says the tree sways during windy storms. She is worried that during the next storm it may fall over. Rich doesn't feel that the tree is in danger of falling; it is a healthy tree, and some swaying is normal when it is windy. Rich mentioned that there is an option to drop crotch the tree. This will reduce the height by 10 feet and may make the resident feel less fearful. Rich describe what 'drop

crotching' entails (removal of the leader). This procedure would result in a significant wound to the tree and negatively impact its long term health. Tina offered a motion to approve a vote not to drop crotch the tree. Chantal seconded motion. All voted in favor to decline both removal of the tree, and drop crotching the tree. Rich was asked to inform the resident and to remind her that if she is unhappy with vote she should could come to the next STC meeting to present her case.

- f. **94 Washington Ave.** Ann noticed that a Port A Potty is sitting under a town tree. A pile of dirt is also under the tree. Her concern was damage to the root system and/or branches. **ACTION:** Rich will visit the site, on Thursday, and make an assessment.

Note: The residents have paid to upgrade the trees that are on our fall planting list, this will mean they can get larger trees than would normally be planted by the town.

- g. **Washington Street:** The dead cherry trees on Washington Street will be replaced this fall. They were planted during our spring planting this year.

- h. **Miller & Maple development.** They have already removed a Town tree- a 6" October Glory Maple on Miller. Additionally, they want to remove a 24' Pin Oak tree on Maple street. Rich checked the site plan that they submitted to the town a few years ago. The plan showed no tree removals. The Pin Oak is healthy. Tina said that if the tree is to be adequately protected during the construction a barrier around the dripline of the tree should be added. Tina offered a motion to approve a vote to protect the tree, this was seconded, and all voted to protect the Pin Oak. **ACTION:** Rich is visiting site on Thursday. He will also inform the town that the developer took down a town tree.

VI. Updates/discussion:

- a. **Mayor's Newsletter:** Joe wrote the original draft which was edited by Tina and circulated for comment. It has been approved by the STC and submitted to the Mayor's office.
- b. **Update on Sept 4 meeting with MR and JH:**
 - i. **Corea Park**-we can plant trees here
 - ii. **Pruning contractor-** Joe made a motion to approve a formal request to MR to add tree pruning to the DPW budget for 2015. Kristin seconded the motion, all approved. **ACTION:** Tina will make the request.
 - iii. **Watering-**Jeff Harke and Rich will make a plan.
- c. **Inventory update:** 1700 trees are completed. STC is happy with Rich's progress.
- d. **Awareness Subcommittee:** The team reported that awareness on the negative consequences of 'mulch volcanoes' is the proposed first priority. The NJ Shade Tree Federation has a very good brochure. The subcommittee proposed to order 500 brochures in English, 25 in Spanish. The STC could hand them out with the flyer during the fall planting. Kristin is also working on a new flyer that will have both English and Spanish on it. Kristin also wrote an article about mulch volcanoes to give to Kevin at the online newspaper *Morristown Green*. Tina motioned to approve: the article, ordering brochures, and the English/Spanish flyer. Ann seconded the motion, all approved. In addition, the Arbor Day Foundation has a brochure called the Benefit of Trees. The subcommittee proposes to link it to our web page on the Town's website. Kristen Weddurburn said it was possible. Kristin motioned for a vote to attach to website, Chantal seconded it- all approved. **ACTION:** Kristin Ace to follow up with Kristen Wedderburn to get the link implemented.
- e. **Ford Ave. Townhouses:** (across from Ford Ave. Park) The owners had the Town trees pruned, and it was done poorly. Many branch

stubs were left. **ACTION:** Rich will come up with an “estimate for cost to repair” and a penalty, then share the information with Jeff Hartke.

f. **Tracy Park:** DPW ordered a new redbud to plant in the park. Mary Tracy wants the dedication to happen before her grandson moves away. Mrs. Tracy has been informed that the tree will be planted this week. She and her family will hold a private ceremony.

- VII. Fall planting update:** Contractor wants to wait until we have 3 frosts to let the trees go dormant, before he takes them out of the ground at the nursery. This should happen in November sometime. Rich will go tag trees after the NJ Shade Tree Federation conference.
- VIII. Tree City USA-**Kristin has submitted the complete application.

IX. Fall Planting: Kristin has flyers for fall planting; Rich will give STC members the list of addresses and we will hand out flyers to residents receiving trees 2 weeks prior to the confirmed planting date.

X. Lights on trees: MR suggested for us to get the Morristown Partnership involved and see if they could get on board with this issue. Kristin will reach out to Karen Carvelli at the partnership. Kristin has prepared a flyer that informs

residents and storefronts that they cannot put holiday lights on town trees unless they get a permit from the town. Kristin motioned to approve, most approved.

XI. Approved Status

- a. **Community Forestry Management Plan:** Part of the update that Paul Cowie & Assoc. is working on requires a workshop for the STC and some of the DPW. So far we have not been able to get confirmation from the Town that the DPW will participate. Rich asked if he could get the questions from Paul Cowie, and talk to the DPW himself. . This seems to be a more likely scenario to get the job done. **ACTION:** Tina to contact Paul Cowie to see if this is possible and to schedule the STC workshop.
- b. **Accomplishment Report**-must be written and submitted in Feb 2015.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:40. Next meeting is Tuesday, November 11th.