

## **Morristown Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes Monthly Meeting**

May 10, 2016

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

### **Members present:**

Kristin Ace, Chair

Karl Roettger, Acting Vice Chair

Deb Regan

Michael Rockland

Candy Beagles

John Harris Secretary

**Guests:** Rich Wolowicz,

Robert Hamel and Taylor Stazzone, of 31 Sherman Place / Robert.e.hamel@gmail.com

### **1. Roll call**

**2. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)** made by Kristin

**3. Minutes:** Kristin motioned to approve the April meeting minutes, \_\_\_\_\_ seconded and all approved.

### **4. Public Portion**

Robert Hamel and Taylor Stazzone would like the large female ginkgo tree in front of the house taken down. They feel the noxious berries are bothersome to them and make their dog sick when he eats them. They offered to replace it with another species or several other trees. There was considerable discussion, with some commission members speaking in favor of the application, others pointing out that, regardless of the berries, the Shade Tree Commission should not be taking down large shade trees. Complicating matters, there is another female ginkgo tree across the street from the applicants. It was agreed that Arborist Rich Wolowicz would investigate the situation to see if the berry situation might be mitigated. A vote on the matter was put off to the next regular meeting of the Commission. The applicants will be notified of the commission's decision by e-mail:

### **5. Arborist Report:**

Rich said that he will be speaking with Department of Public Works Supervisor, Richard Fernicola about proper mulching of town trees as there has been a siting of several volcanoes

done by the town. He will also be checking into the situation of certain trees on Western Avenue and Lake St. Certain trees that the new CVS pharmacy was unable to plant at its location have instead been planted near the Burnham Park Pool. Finally, the arborist will check on a tree that is reportedly leaning at 119 Washington Avenue.

## **6. Kristin gives Arbor Day recap**

There was a report on the Arbor Day observance and the positive publicity it produced. Congressman Frelinghuysen also wrote in appreciation of the Arbor Day ceremony, which he was good enough to attend, as did Mayor Doherty. The event was covered by Morristown Green.com / Kevin Coughlin who wrote a very nice article about us. Also, Jim Lent of the Morris News Bee came

## **7. Vote on Coal/MLK tree removal**

After considerable debate, the following resolution was approved: Karl made a motion to vote yes with the wording ~

The STC approves the planned removal of the trees in the parking lot on Martin Luther King Drive and Coal Avenue, with the recommendation that every possible effort be made to preserve as many existing evergreens on the site as possible. The Shade Tree Commission will require compensation per the STC's formulation of the Valuation of Trees. Rich Wolowicz will calculate the compensation before the trees are taken down.

Kristin seconded. All voted yes.

## **8. Awareness**

Under the general heading of "Awareness," there was discussion of how the commission can get its message out to town residents on such subjects as volcano mulching and the coming invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer. Chairperson Ace will send out a draft to all members of a proposed text. There was some discussion—though not definitive—that all communications on these matters might be included in the door hangers that henceforth will be placed on all residences where new trees will be planted. There was also discussion of using e-mail to all town residents on commission affairs.

**ACTION** - Cynthia Beagle agreed to create the draft of a pdf. that might be used to send out to resident email groups

**ACTION** – Kristin is to amend the water your new tree door hanger to make it more of asking for help

**ACTION** – Deb is to check with Kristen Wedderburn about uploading the EAB & Volcano Mulching flyers onto the town web site

## **9. CORE Training update**

Deb Regan reported on the Core Training she and Michael Rockland attended in April. She emphasized that a key ingredient in the training was the suggestion of one of the lecturers, who is a lawyer, that Shade Tree Commission members use a separate e-mail for all communications so

that, in the event of a law suit, one's personal e-mail would not be subject to examination. For the present there seemed to be a consensus that this might be left up to each individual member.

Chairperson Ace reminded commission members of the special meeting to be held on May 17 focused on tree wells in the Central Business District of Morristown  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.