

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC8) Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2013

7 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Karl Roettcer

Joe Torres

Ann Bertucci

Members absent:

Kristin Ace

Silvia LeBlanco

Michael Rockland

Louise Witt

Guests: Robert and Eileen Keller

- I. Roll call**
- II. Minutes:** acceptance of meeting minutes from July 9.
- III. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)**
- IV. Site Plan review on 94 Washington Ave:** Robert and Eileen Keller attended in order to answer questions about their intention to remove two town trees adjacent to their new property (Washington Ave. and Olmstead). One is a dying Maple tree on Washington Ave. The other is a healthy growing Pin Oak, the first in a row of 5-7 similar oaks on Olmstead Ave. The Keller's want to add a second driveway where the Pin Oak now stands. Their plan calls for removing the Pin Oak and replacing it with another tree. Although the "replacement" would not be as large as the current tree (12 inch DBH)they said they had planted 8 inch DBH trees in the curb strips in Lake Forest and felt this could be done here as well. fe, but it will not be as large as the existing one(12" diameter).

Karl: A root ball on an 8 inch tree is far to large to plant in that curb strip without removing the sidewalk.

There was a general discussion by the STC and it was decided to defer any decisions until some additional input could be obtained. For example, Chantal and Joe had questions regarding what was feasible to plant at that location if the Pin Oak were to be removed. Some members felt they needed a site visit to better understand the impact of removing Pin Oak tree. The STC also wanted input from the arborist regarding care of trees during and

after construction. STC members agreed that it will be important to consider the value of the tree, the value of it being in a row of beautiful trees along the roadway, and the fact that it is growing and thriving in an area where many large trees have been lost in recent storms. This is a community where people are always out walking, and where shade trees are valued.

ACTION: Tina will contact the arborist and set up a site visit.

ACTION: We will schedule an emergency meeting next week to vote on the matter.

- V. Tree Inventory:** Samantha Rothman and Tina met with Michael Rogers about his change to plans regarding the Land Conservancy updating the tree inventory. This change included using the DPW Shade Tree Crew journal entries. Tina and Sam explained to Michael that the journals do not contain the information required to update our inventory. Michael explained his concern that there was not adequate funding available for both an arborist and a fully updated tree inventory as recommended by the STC. The resulting suggestion was to have a sample done by the Land Conservancy. They would look at a random sample of 300 trees (10%), and use that to determine whether or not the 2011 inventory is still valid or if it should be completely updated.

MOTION made to approve the Land Conservancy doing the sampling. All approved.

ACTION: Tina to contact Barbara (Land Conservancy) to get a price for the sampling.

Tina: I have the report from the 2011 tree inventory provided by Samantha Rothman. The Urban Forestry Initiative Tree Inventory report is on a flash drive, so if anyone wants a copy of it, please bring a flash drive to the next meeting so STC members can download copies.

VI. Update on Speedwell Avenue Sidewalk Renovation:

Chantal: Tina and Chantal walked the development site (early August) with Jen from the Morristown Partnership, the arborist Rich Wolowicz, Jeff Hartke, Ralph Panei, and Anthony from the DPW. The streetscape (sidewalks, lampposts and trees) are being renovated The STC and arborist were there to examine existing trees, and make recommendations regarding removal, pruning, and placement/selection of new trees., and to assess the proposed tree well specifications. Two trees were slated for removal and

will be replaced. Rich will send Jeff H. the recommendations for the empty tree wells. The new tree wells will be 4x8, which is considerably larger than they are now. The work will be starting this fall.

- VII. Open Tree Wells in town:** Last month STC members walked specific streets in town and documented the open wells.

ACTION: Tina will put them on a spreadsheet and send it to Rich so he can make tree replacement recommendations.

- VIII. Karl at Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.** Jim Campbell, the zoning officer will be the town liaison working with Karl on any STC issues that arise.

- IX. Guy Wires by JCP&L and others:**

MOTION made to request that utility companies or town crews do not attach guy wires, store wire, or wrap wires around any town trees in Morristown. Unanimously approved.

- X. Town shrubs:**

MOTION made to allow DPW to trim shrubs when they are blocking signage. All approved.

ACTION: Tina to communicate this decision to Jeff Hartke

Reminder: CORE training coming up in October.

- XI. Next Meeting:**

- a. Select a liaison to work with the Morristown Partnership. One important topic is to reassess tree well specs in town to help improve the long term health of our trees.
- b. Discuss if the STC is allowed to raise money.
- c. **CEU needed for approved status.** Samantha to do training on a subject of interest to the STC- think of some possibilities.

- XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.**