

**Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC9) Meeting Minutes  
Emergency Meeting**

August 29, 2013

7:30 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

**Members present:**

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Kristin Ace

Michael Rockland

Joe Torres

Anne Bertucci

**Members absent:**

Karl Roettcer

Silvia LeBlanco

Louise Witt

- I. **Roll call**
- II. **Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)**
- III. **RFP for Part-time Town Arborist :** The STC will give a recommendation to Michael Rogers, but it is the Town's final decision about whose proposal is accepted.

Kristin: Save-a-Tree are not attached to the town in any way. She has worked with them personally. They are very professional, and "they are all about the trees." But, they are 50% more expensive than two other proposals and this equates to approximately \$25,000 per year.

Chantal: Rich Wolowicz is a small, local company, and he has been knowledgeable on the few jobs where we have worked with him.

Tina: Kristin has worked with Save-a-Tree and there is high value in a good reputation but the cost seems prohibitive. Rich's reputation in the NJ industry was supported by another arborist who knows Sam Rothman. This is a strong endorsement.

MP was immediately ruled out because the person who would be doing the work at the company did not meet the certification that was required by the RFP; *New Jersey Certified Tree Expert*.

Tina made a motion to recommend Rich Wolowicz as first choice and Save-a-Tree as a second choice. Kristin seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

**ACTION:** Tina to communicate recommendation to Michael Rogers

#### **IV. Site Plan at 94 Washington Ave.**

A new site plan had been proposed by the Kellers on August 20 that included having the house moved and the driveway reconfigured so that the Pin Oak could be preserved. However, the new plan shows the driveway coming within 4 feet of the Pin Oak which would mean that its roots would have to be cut as well as the branches above the proposed driveway/construction entrance.

Ann, Tina and Kristin met Rich Wolowitz(arborist), Fritz(town engineer) and the builder at the property on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. They examined four town trees adjacent to the property. Following this meeting the arborist submitted his report outlining how to mitigate damage to the Pin Oak due to construction activity (see attachment) among other things. The STC discussed the likelihood of these activities being carried out by either the builder or the town. The STC also took into account published standards for tree protection during construction.

The STC voted unanimously to preserve and therefore protect the Pin Oak and Bur Oak on Olmstead. Therefore, no construction or construction work, including heavy machinery should be used, driven, or parked in close proximity to, or within, the drip line ( consider “critical protection zone” to replace “drip line” based on references attached) of either of the trees on Olmstead Road. Regarding the trees on Washington Ave., the STC approves the plan to remove the two trees, the declining Maple, and the weakened Zelcova . However, the town should remove these trees, as they are town trees. The town should replace both trees on Washington Ave as well, based on the arborist’s recommendation. All voted to approve the motion.

**ACTION:** Tina to communicate STC decision to Town, Mayor and builder.

#### **V. Meeting adjourned at 9:00**