

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC35) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

February 10, 2015

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Kristin Ace, Meeting moderator

Anne Bertucci

Louise Witt

Karl Roettger

Joe Torres

Members absent:

Michael Rockland

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Guest: Richard Wolowicz, Karen Kiehn (cell 973-670-9368)

1. Roll call

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

made by Kristin at 7:00.

3. Karen Kiehn: Karen attended our meeting to see how we decide where to plant trees when we do a tree planting (such as the recent Fall Planting). Kristin explained our procedures to Karen. She has concerns about 3 trees planted on Lafayette Ave. She claimed that the new trees will blocks lights, blocks signs, go into the power lines. The trees may create hazards with falling leaves. She claimed that the trees are on state property- from the Mercedes building to Staples on Lafayette. She claimed that Jeff Hartke told her that the three trees could be removed. **ACTION:** Rich will go look at trees, and report back to STC, and get clarification about state property.

4. GIGM: The STC will plan a visit to Early Street, to see the trees they want to remove. We will reach out and see if Tuesday Feb. 17th at 4:00 is good for a visit. **ACTION:** Chantal will reach out to Carolle Huber and confirm with everyone thru email.

5. **Fall Planting Review:** Rich gave his overview of the recent Fall Planting (December 2014). He stated that the mulch was sloppy. 2-3 out of 89 trees will need to be swapped out, because of issues. The trees were bigger (and nice quality) than spec'ed, which is why they were staked. Rich will pull stakes out late this summer. Rich would like to find a way to get local bidders for future plantings. Local landscapers can be more responsive to problems etc. than Barbado from Long Island or other longer distance contractors. He will give document to Jeff Hartke and Vij to see if we can specify "local" contractors. Ann had questions about the root ball being planted high. Rich inspected trees, and saw some trees were 2" high. Things are so frozen now to tell, or to move the mulch down. Ann would like to see trees replanted at ground level. **ACTION:** We will wait for a thaw to really get a better look at some of the higher planted trees.
6. **Approved Status:** Paul Cowie is meeting with Jeff Hartke and Rich about our CFMP.
7. **Spring Planting 2015:** Should we get another contractor to plant the 17 October Glories that Barbado didn't have this fall? The Town wants him to finish the job. Karl had an idea for the spring planting: He would like to see us plant big legacy trees- not just in our small town right-or-way. For example, Morristown HS senior parking lot, the train station, the library, Correa Park, or at Chase Bank on South Street. Maybe we could add a few of these legacy trees to our spring planting, if we can stay under \$17,000 for the bid. Also the Iron Bar pear trees that were failing last spring- the ph in the soil was way off. Rich did some remediation to the soil, and we have to see how they do this spring.
8. **Inventory Update: Inventory is done!** Rich reported that we have 3081 street trees in Morristown. Rich will find out how many Ash trees we have out of the 3081 trees. The Emerald Ash Borer will destroy all the Ash trees within 8 years. Kristin feels we should have a separate meeting to have Rich present info about the ash borer, and then make a plan as a STC. Rich needs to run the numbers, and then we can come up with a plan of how to take down trees or manage some with chemicals. **ACTION:** Place the EAB problem on the March meeting agenda, and we will have more info to go on.

9. **Motions:** Ann mentioned that perhaps we weren't making the "motions" for a vote correctly. Kristin believed that we were operating as we have always made motions during our meetings. Ann felt we may want to follow the Roberts Rules of Order. **ACTION:** This will be added to our next meetings' agenda for discussion.
10. **Tree City USA:** We are still waiting to hear.
11. **Arbor Day:** Vote was brought up to join with the Burnham Park Association in an Arbor Day planting. Joe motioned to vote, Chantal seconded motion. All approved. Karl wanted to see if the planting could be in a prominent spot, maybe along old route 24 where all the pine trees fell over during Sandy. **ACTION:** Chantal will speak to Douglas Voroleiff and the BPA.
12. **Protocol subcommittee:** Karl presented forms that the Protocol committee has created. We voted to approve each document. **Basic Public Information with Procedures:** Ann motioned that we accept this document, Joe seconded, all approved. **ACTION:** Rich will have Vij, Jeff H. approve document, then bring it back to us. **Request for Tree planting on Private Property** document. Ann motioned to approve amended version with title added, Joe seconded, all approved. **Request for Service or Inspection:** Chantal motioned, Joe seconded call for a vote. Louise wants to add a risk assessment piece to this form. Karl feels that the Risk Assessment Form should be an internal document. We all approved the Request for Service or Inspection Form. **ACTION:** Rich will get a Risk Assessment Form to the Procedure Committee.
13. **Nominating chair/vice chair/ secretary/treasurer for next meeting.** **ACTION:** Chantal will find out when commissions are over. Louise mentioned that we may want to add Treasurer and a Vice-Chair to the titles of the commissioners.
14. **Meeting adjourned:** at 8:37. Next meeting on Tuesday, March 10th.