

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC34) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

January 13, 2015

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Kristin Ace

Anne Bertucci

Louise Witt

Karl Roettger

Members absent:

Joe Torres

Michael Rockland

Guest: Douglas Voroleiff

1. Roll call

2. Minutes from September, October and November: Motion to approve minutes:
Tina made motion, Chantal seconded, all approved.

3. **Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)**
made by Tina at 7:03.

4. **Douglas Voroleiff- Native vs. Non-Native Trees:** Douglas was a guest at the meeting to bring a concern of his to the commission. He is interested in planting only native species in Morristown, to support the local insect population, which supports the local birds which supports....etc. He brought a book "Bringing Nature Home" to share. Douglas lives on Kenmuir Street in Morristown. He was slated to get a Linden tree in our fall planting, which is non-native. We did not plant the tree, due to his concerns. Karl recommended a serviceberry tree possibly. Discussion ensued about possibly taking the homeowners expectations into consideration. Tina explained that we have goals- canopy cover for the town, species goals for the town etc. She also explained what she learned at the

NJSTF meetings- that the trees that have done well in the past 100 years are going to be different than for the next 100 years. **ACTION:** Send Rich to Douglas' address, and find a native species to plant for the spring planting.

5. **Fall Planting Review:** Cutler Street neighborhood had a flurry of negative emails concerning the Shade Tree Commission planting trees that neighbors didn't want. The STC felt that the trees were a nice size and seemed very healthy. Several members were concerned about the high mulching. Some of the stakes seem to go right into the root ball. Karl was concerned that it was a very late in the year planting (winter). Since by law we have to take the low bidder for the job, we have no control over the quality of the planting. He wonders how we can have more control. **ACTION:** Louise asked Karl if he could follow up with someone in Princeton to find out how they manage their STC plantings. **ACTION:** Tina will follow up with Michael Rogers about pruning budget item for the town trees, low bidding avoidance issues etc. Louise wondered if we should have a spring planting public town meeting, to inform residents about the goals of the STC. **ACTION:** Awareness Committee will discuss at next meeting. **ACTION:** When Rich goes to add the trees from the fall planting to the inventory, he will assess the plantings. **ACTION:** STC feels that this fall planting had many problems, and we should address these before we do another planting.
6. **Annual Report:** Tina had a few questions to ask STC before we approved report to be submitted.
7. **Accomplishment Report:** Kristin will fill out form, and attach the Annual Report from the STC and submit it to the NJ Community Forest Federation.
(?correct name?)
8. **CFMP:** Tina reached out to Paul Cowie to see where the CFMP is, and she has not heard from him in the past 2 weeks.
9. **CEU's:** There are many offerings for CEU's for the commissioners to take. Classes are usually offered during the first quarter of the year. Tina has a concern that if we don't take advantage of this soon, that we will run into trouble getting our CEU's by the end of the year. **ACTION:** Ann is looking into organizing a class

here- Rich could be one of the presenters, and we need to find 1-2 other presenters. She offered to do the organizing, finding out about a location, payment options, etc.

10. **Meeting adjournment:** At 8:35. Next meeting on February 10th.