

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC29) Meeting Minutes
Bi-Monthly Meeting

July 22th, 2014

7:04 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Kristin Ace

Michael Rockland

Louise Witt

Karl Roettger

Members absent:

Anne Bertucci

Joe Torres

Guests: Richard Wolowicz

I. Roll call

II. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law) made by Tina at 7:00.

III. Minutes: Tina made a motion to approve minutes from meetings 22-26. Kristin seconded motion, all voted aye.

IV. Emerald Ash Borer: Tina made an announcement at the town council meeting last week about the Emerald Ash Borer.

V. Town tree Inventory: Karl raised concerns about the inventory project. As previously discussed. Karl's concerns include: are we are using Rich's time wisely, will he be able to complete the project by himself on time, what will it cost, will we have the same deliverable that the Land Conservancy and other bidders promised? Rich is coming in additional days to work on the project at an hourly rate.

Action: Rich will provide a progress report at the next meeting. Karl will review the meeting minutes describing the decision that was made, commitments and rationale.

VI. Community Forestry Management proposal; Rich mentioned that CSIPS offers a \$3000.00 grant to communities for updating their Community Forestry Management Plan. Michael will ask the Council for the Paul Cowie and Associates contract to be approved at the next meeting.

- ACTION:** Rich will speak to Jeff Hartke to see if Morristown can submit a grant application since we are updating our CFMP this year.
- VII. Tree planting Flyer:** Tina motioned for a vote on the flyer that Kristin created. It will be provided to residents who will have a town tree planted in front of their property this fall. Chantal seconded motion. Michael brought up that maybe we should add that people could water the newly planted tree if they noticed that it was dry. Tina said that the STC decision at the previous meeting was that we are relying on the contractors and DPW to take care of the town trees, it is important that STC put effective systems in place to care for our trees. We cannot count on the resident to water the new trees. All voted yes for the flyer, and Kristin will print 200 copies. The STC members will place flyers in the doors for the fall planting in their ward.
- VIII. Temporary easement:** Tina forwarded the town waiver to all of us- It makes it possible for STC to plant a tree on private property if owner signs waiver. **ACTION:** the Protocol sub-committee will review the waiver and incorporate it into their protocols as applicable.
- IX. Mayor's newsletter:** Kristen Wedderburn contacted Tina and said that the mayor wants to have a blurb for his newsletter about the Shade Tree Commission. We discussed it and decided to include what we have accomplished so far, and our plans for the immediate future. **ACTION:** Joe will write a blurb and bring it to the next meeting.
- X. Parks, weeding:** Karl mentioned the poor maintenance of our parks in town, such as the weeds in Tracy Park. **ACTION:** Karl will contact Kathleen Margiotta to see who is responsible for park maintenance.
- XI. Fall Tree planting:** Rich needs our list for trees in our designated wards by this Sunday July 27th. Email Rich at morristowntrees@gmail.com.
- XII. Miller and Maple:** It looks like construction will be happening at this site, and Michael and Kristin requested that Rich go look at the site to make sure that the town trees are protected. **Action:** Tina will send an email to MR, Jeff, Jim, Fritz etc. to inquire about the activities and why the STC had not been notified or brought into the decision making process regarding the town trees at the site. Rich will do a site visit and make an assessment.
- XIII. Tree pruning:** There has not been much pruning in town this summer despite many requests and a full spreadsheet. DPW has been very busy with other activities. **ACTION:** Tina will send a reminder email to the mayor about hiring an outside contractor to help with pruning.
- XIV. Oak tree:** Karl noticed that Jaflo really damaged a mature oak tree- with chain saw tree cuts into the bark. **ACTION:** Rich will meet Karl at the tree on Friday, and make an assessment. Rich will email the Jaflo Tree company as follow up if indicated.

XV. George's Island: The hydrangeas around the monument need pruning-

ACTION: Rich will meet the DPW there for pruning.

XVI. Whole Foods: The Planning Board had a special meeting. Louise reported that they have placed 8 trees in the parking lot plan for the new Whole Foods going in on Washington Street (old A&P site). There will also be an island that includes shrubbery and perennials.

XVII. Next Meeting: In August, our first meeting will be a regular STC meeting-August 12th. Tuesday August 26th will be reserved for sub-committee meetings for the Protocol committee and Awareness committee.