

Minutes STC Regular Meeting June 14, 2016

7:05 pm Meeting called to order by Chair Kristin Ace

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call:

Members present: Kristin Ace, Candy Beagles, John Harris, Karl Roettger

Members absent: Deb Regan, Michael Rockland

Guests: Richard Wolowicz (Forester)
John Hamel (31 Sherman Place)

Agenda Item 2:

Kristin cited statement of compliance with N.J. Open Public Hearings Act

Agenda Item 3:

Motion: to approve & accept minutes of the May 10th and May 17 STC meetings:

Kristin presented, Karl seconded: Candy, yes; John, yes; Karl, yes; Kristin, yes.

Motion approved.

Agenda Item 4:

Mr. John Hamel, 31 Sherman Pl., Morristown, presented his request to have the town remove the female Gingko tree in front of his home. He summarized and restated the reasons that he had previously presented at the May 10 STC meeting.

Rich Wolowicz provided the details of his inspection of the female Gingko tree: 22.5” DBH and in good health. The commission members followed up with questions and discussion. An alternative to removal, spraying, was deemed ineffective. Pruning might provide some relief to the home owner. Another female Gingko on Sherman Place though not presented to the commission for removal was also part of the conversation. Mr. Hamel suggested that he could provide the STC with a petition from his neighborhood indicating consensus opinion for the removal of the tree. The commission requested that Mr. Hamel provide STC with that petition before the regular July meeting. The commission also requested that Rich Wolowicz provide it with a formal tree valuation for the female Ginko.

Agenda Item 5:

Motion: To table the vote on Mr. Hamel’s request for removal of the female Gingko to the July 12, 2016 meeting. Motion made by Karl, seconded by Kristin: Candy, yes; John, yes; Karl, yes; Kristin, yes. Motion approved

Agenda Item 6:

Discussion on planting concept for business district. Kristin provided a spreadsheet breaking down the specific number of empty wells, dead trees and wells by size on each street in the downtown district. The need for uniformity of wells, improvement of growing conditions in the wells (Biochar was discussed), grating and fencing were discussed. There has been some objection to low fencing around the wells because of pedestrian tripping and DPW concerns; however tall fencing had received general approval. A street by street, spring and fall planting sequence was considered with a portion of the planting money to be used to properly amend the wells. Action: Kristin will schedule a meeting with the mayor to explain our plan and to seek his support and approval.

Agenda Item 7: Arborist Report:

Rich reported the following:

1. The Protection of Trees draft was provided for STC review.
2. Suggested that the two trees owed us from 7 Lake Rd. be planted at 100 & 102 Sussex Ave.
3. The trees owed from the project at 78 Western Ave. are ready for planting.
4. Rich emailed the planning board planner regarding the poor quality of the Locust trees planted at the Burnham Park Pool.
5. Presented request for the removal of 2 Ailanthus trees on town property and AME Church on Spring St.

Motion: To approve the removal of 2 Ailanthus Trees on town property at AME Church on Spring Street. Motion made by Kristin, seconded by Karl: Candy, yes; John, yes; Karl, yes; Kristin, yes. Motion approved.

Agenda Item 8: Action Updates:

1. Kristin will provide Jillian Barrick with an estimate for the printing of new tree/water gator door hangers.
2. Karl & Kristin will meet with the Morris Education Foundation on June 27th to discuss the TD Green Grant.

Agenda Item 9:

1. Kristin feels the need to delegate more responsibilities.
2. Action: Candy will create volcano mulch and EAB brochures for distribution with town calendar.

Agenda Item 10:

1. The need to review site plans from the planning/zoning boards was discussed. Kristin suggested that the STC devote a sufficient portion of each meeting to review the plans for potential involvement by the STC. No motion was made or vote was taken to do this.

2. A motion was made to approve plans for the developer at 42 Spring Street intending to plant trees as per his site plan: Motion: “ The Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC) has reviewed the plans for 42 Spring Street and has voted, on June 14, 2016, to approve them. We are very happy about the six trees and shrub plantings around the building. The

species selection and landscaping plans must be approved by the Morristown STC to ensure the trees thriving longevity. Please reach out to us with the tree species, selection and size at ~ morristowntrees@gmail.com. We are happy to work with you.” Kristin presented, Karl seconded: Candy, yes; John, yes: Karl, yes: Kristin, yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48.