

**Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC36) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting**

March 10, 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

Joe Torres

Michael Rockland

Members absent: none!

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 Tina at 7:00.
- 3. Arbor Day:** Burnham Park Association: We are joining with the Association to celebrate Arbor Day this year. They are planning the tree planting event on April 18th (rain date 25th) at 9:00am. The STC will make a 40-minute presentation, then plant a tree for STC and several trees for the BPA. **ACTIONS:** Tina will invite the Mayor to give some remarks, as well as council members. Kristin will invite Rodney Frelinghuysen and Kevin Coughlin from Morristown Green.com. Louise will reach out to Michael Rogers and Kristen W. to get something on town website. Chantal will talk with Lynn Siebert of the BPA to see what they would like on the agenda.
- 4. Arbor Day Proclamation:** At next meeting, April 14th, we will attend the council meeting, where the Mayor will read the Proclamation for Arbor Day. **ACTIONS:** Louise will write the Proclamation. Kristin will reach out to Alec to see if we have our Tree City USA flag to present at the council meeting.

5. **Voting for new Chair and Vice Chair:** Tina nominated Karl Roettger for Chair of the STC starting in April 2015. Kristin seconded motion. All voted yes. Tina nominated Chantal Diedrich for secretary. Kristin seconded motion. All voted yes. She will remain secretary till term ends. Louise nominated Ann Bertucci for a newly created position, Vice Chair. Michael seconded. All voted yes.
6. **Chair/Vice Chair laundry list:** STC discussed the obligations of the Chair and Vice Chair: Chair manages communications with the town, creates and prioritizes meeting agenda; reviews minutes and posts them to the town thru Kristen W. (then checks to make sure they were posted); takes any questions from residents and funnels to arborist when appropriate, who then communicates with resident, Jeff Hartke and Chair/arborist. Chair arranges meetings with town, takes notes and actions from meetings. Chair and Vice Chair need to be proactive and know about things like; the Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP), getting people to volunteer for projects, check terms of commissioners, and make sure we get our CEU's for the year. Louise spoke out and feels that we need a separate Treasurer. Michael suggested that maybe the Vice Chair be the treasurer also? Tina felt it could be simpler to have the Vice Chair do the budgeting. Louise felt that we should have a separate Treasurer because it spreads the work load, and involves more people in the work and in the community. Tina asked Joe Torres if he would be interested in a Treasurer's position. He may be. We will not vote on this tonight.
7. **CFMP:** just be aware that it is coming soon, and we should all be ready and willing to read the document and make comments.
8. **Rich's Inventory details, and EAB information:** Rich showed us the tree inventory on his computer. He is speaking with the town about having the DPW help keep up the inventory. We have 178 Ash trees in our town forest. 75 ash trees are compromised, which leaves 100 healthy ash trees. Possible solutions for the Emerald Ash Borer infestation that will arrive in the future: We could spray the trunks, or inject the roots. This may cost \$17,000 a year for 20 years for the 100 healthy Ash trees. Treatment just defers death for the trees, but we can plant replacements and allow them to establish before trees are lost. They

will all eventually die. Kristin wondered if this chemical is harmful to woodpeckers, other insects etc.

9. **Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.**