

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC38) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

May 12, 2015

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Karl Roettger, Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Kristin Ace,

Anne Bertucci

Joe Torres

Michael Rockland

Members absent:

Louise Witt

Tina Wahlstrom

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 Karl at 7:01.

3. No Minutes to approve

4. Karen Kiehn: Sawtooth oaks that were planted last fall on Lafayette Ave. seem to be dead. She will have the State Department contact STC about us following state guidelines when we plant trees along a state street. STC has the authority to plant on state and county roads in Morristown.

5. Joe Attamonte & Burnham Park: Joe scheduled a walk thru Burnham Park with Jeff Hartke, Rich Fernicola and a naturalist. They want to replant sections of the plantings around the pond. They want to plant Forsythia along the north end of the pond, behind the houses. Chantal asked for Rich's opinion, and he didn't have a problem with their plan. Forsythia is hardy, easy to grow, and will help keep the geese from the residents yards. Karl motioned for us to approve Burnham Park planting. Ann seconded motion, all voted yes.

6. Fall Planting update: Pear trees on South Street, in front of Iron Bar seemed to be in decline last year, and are not doing well this year. Rich wants to cut them

down, grind the stumps. Rich Fernicola needs to check the conduits and utilities before the trees are removed. **ACTION:** Rich will push for a meeting as we want them removed as soon as possible and replanted.

7. **11 Budd Street:** Resident feels the town Pear tree is putting too much shade in her yard. She wants the tree taken out. Rich feels we could thin the tree, and have her plant shade grass seed. **ACTION:** Rich will call her and offer thinning.
8. **7 Paula Court:** Resident had a sewer issue and had to dig up lawn. He is worried that the tree roots from the town tree will now cause more problems. **ACTION:** Rich will call him.
9. **Fall Planting:** Rich is 2/3rds of the way from visiting every tree, pulling away mulch and checking health and quality. All of the sawtooth oaks have died. The contractor will have to replace them. **ACTION:** Rich is sending a letter to contractor, and Jeff Hartke will call and threaten to call the bonding company. From the spring planting a year ago, Karl has seen a few problems- at Tracey Park redbuds are not doing well. Some redbuds at town hall also seem to be doing poorly. Karl wondered if we should replace the redbuds at Tracey Park with a different species.
10. **Headquarters Plaza:** 5 oaks in a row are in poor condition. Kristin read that they are planning a whole redo of that area. We will wait to see.
11. **MacCulloch Ave.** There is a 100 year old silver maple that is basically hollow. It is being cut down. It was a beautiful tree. ☹️
12. **Liason to Planning Board of Adjustment:** Karl has resigned from that position, since he became the chair of the STC. He asked if there would be anyone to volunteer for that position. Michael wanted to know what is involved. Karl nominated Michael, Joe seconded the motion and all voted yes.
13. **Community Forestry Management Plan:** CFMP- STC commissioners have read it and added edits. We will send this on to the town and Paul Crowie. We want to see the final edit in a meeting. Ann offered her office to meet for the final edit when it is ready. We wondered about requesting the Senior Citezen Center room in Town Hall because it has a flat screen to project plan on. **ACTION:** Karl will schedule meeting for Tuesday May 26th, 7:00 in the Senior Center, 3rd floor.

14. **Karl feels that we are always playing catch-up.** He would like us to get more pro-active. Fall planting: We had some complaints from residents, so he would like residents to be better informed. He would also like us to find places for stately big trees. He would like to see contractors being monitored while planting. We would rather see 35 good, big, trees than 70 small sickly trees. ACTION: Kristin will update flyer and bring them in. STC would like to research tree fences around wells. We would love to have our plan done by July.
15. **Fall 2015 Planting:** Commissioners will revisit their wards, and get another list of places that could use a tree.
16. **Subcommittees:** We had to disband our subcommittees because they contained a quorum. Our subcommittees need to be smaller than 3 people. We need to keep an awareness committee. Karl would like to generate more awareness in the community-thru neighborhood groups, fall festivals, etc. ACTION: Karl will get the protocol items, check with town, and bring it to next meeting. We held a discussion about whether we need a nominating committee or not.
17. **Tree City USA signs:** Where should we place them? Madison & South, Then on Washington Street? Think about other possible locations.
18. **Meeting adjourned at 8:45.** Next meeting is May 26th to view CFMP, then regular STC monthly meeting is June 9th, 7:00pm.