

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC45) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

November 10, 2015
7:00 pm meeting, Room 201
Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Karl Roettger, Chair
Kristin Ace, Vice Chair
Tina Wahlstrom
Michael Rockland
Candy Beagles
John Harris
Deb Regan
Joe Torres

Members absent:

Chantel Dietrich

Guests: Rich Wolowicz

- 1. Roll call**
- 2. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)**
made by Karl at 7:00.
- 3. Minutes:** no minutes were approved
- 4. Arborist Report:**
 - a.** Cerbo started the Fall planting last Thursday and planted approximately 12 trees that day, 28 additional trees were planted today. There were a couple of refusals and changes of location. Cerbo is following the specifications accurately.
 - b.** The tree on South Street with the wire basket still on (from a previous Fall planting) will be rectified. The 5 Pear trees that were removed this summer on the Green can be replaced but the soil will have to be remediated first. The Honey Locusts (2.5-3 inch caliper) cannot be planted on Spring Street due to interference with utilities. Rich recommended that the Honey Locusts be planted at sites where dead trees were removed in 2014, but not in locations where good sized shade trees can be planted in the future, and not all together in

one location. Karl made a motion that was seconded by Kristin to allow Rich to find new locations for the Honey Locusts according to his recommendation. This was unanimously approved by the members of the STC.

- c. Plantings at CVS were of very poor quality.
 - d. On Phoenix Street there is a retaining wall that is cracked because of the roots of public trees. There is no way to remediate this problem short of removing the trees. They are 10-12 inch diameter. Rich recommended they be removed and will add them to the spreadsheet for DPW.
 - e. Burnham Park-Joe Attamonte reached out to Rich W. to arrange a walkthrough of Burnham Park to assess the trees. When that walk thru is scheduled by them members of the STC will be invited to attend. The Mayor, Town Administrator and the neighbors should be informed of any work before it is done. **ACTION:** Rich to advise the STC when the walkthrough will occur.
 - f. Assumption Church- have requested that a Linden tree be removed. Rich assessed the tree and determined that it has some hollowing. **ACTION:** Rich will determine the degree of hollowness and inform the STC.
 - g. 78 Western Ave- the trees at risk at the construction site do not yet have fences around them to protect them from damage during construction. **ACTION:** Rich will speak with Fritz and have the fences put up ASAP.
 - h. Karl asked about when the gators and stakes will be removed from recently planted trees. Rich responded that he will do it this fall/winter.
5. **TD Bank Grant:** There was an update from Karl and Kristin regarding recent meetings that were held with GIGM and the grant writers. Kristin provided some details of the proposal and the STC discussed them. A motion was made to accept the proposal which was seconded by Joe. Nay voters-Tina, Candy, Deb,

Joe and Mike. Yay voters- Kristin and Karl. **ACTION:** Kristin to inform GIGM that we will not be participating this year but may next year.

6. **Strategies for 2016:** Kristin made a recommendation that we discuss our strategy/priorities for 2016 on the agenda for the new year. Kristin and Karl have a meeting planned with the new Town Administrator and interim replacement for Jeff Hartke on Thursday this week. She provided a handout with some rough ideas for talking points and asked for input on whether our the poor quality of our past relationship be discussed. Kristin recommended that we be open and discuss issues that we have had working with DPW over the past 2 ½ years. The STC reviewed the recommendations. A motion was made a seconded to 1) discuss the issues directly but 2) to make sure that the message is delivered in a positive and constructive manner. All voted Yay, except for Karl.
7. **Meeting adjourned at 8:45.**