

## Wedderburn, Kristen

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**From:** Karl Roettger <karl924@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2015 10:06 AM  
**To:** Mayor; Jillian Barrick; Devizio, Anthony; Wedderburn, Kristen  
**Subject:** STC Annual Report 2015

Morristown STC Annual Report 2015

The establishing ordinance was passed by the council in February 2013. The current Shade Tree Commission (STC) is composed of seven voting members and two alternates:

Kristin Ace (vice chair)

Chantal Diedrich (secretary)

Michael Rockland (liaison to PB & ZBA)

Karl Roettger (chair)

Joe Torres- alternate (treasurer)

John Harris – alternate

Candy Beagles

Deb Regan

Tina Wahlstrom

Regular meetings were held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and three additional meetings were held for a total of 15 meetings in 2015. The STC elected Karl Roettger as Chair 3/10, re-elected Chantal Diedrich as Secretary 3/10, Kristin Ace as Vice-Chair 8/11, Joe Torres as Treasurer 4/15 and Michael Rockland 5/12 as liaison to the Planning Board & Zoning Board of Adjustment. Meeting agendas were posted on the Town website prior to each meeting and minutes have been posted after approval by the STC.

Anne Bertucci & Louise Witt resigned from the commission in 2015 and three new members (John Harris, Candy Beagles & Deb Regan) were appointed. The STC also created and filled positions of Vice-Chair and

Treasurer during 2015. At the 12/08/15 meeting Kristin Ace was elected to the position of chair commencing 01/01/16. Tina Wahlstrom resigned from the commission on 12/12/15 effective 2/31/15

The STC priorities for the year 2015 were:

1) continue to work closely with DPW, the town and residents to improve the quality of the community forest, 2) Prepare and get approval for the 2015-2019 Community Forest Management Plan, 3) meet requirements for Approved Status with the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, 4) complete a significant fall 2015 town wide tree planting, 5) plan and execute an Arbor Day event, 6) establish partnering relationships in the community, 7) create community outreach opportunities, 8) continue to establish improved policies and procedures regarding the management of town trees.

Accomplishments:

1. The State of NJ DEP Forestry Service approved the Town's 2<sup>nd</sup> five year Community Forestry Management Plan for 2015-2019.
2. The inventory of public street trees was completed by the town arborist in 2015.
3. Pursued community outreach and public interaction with an STC table at the Morristown Fall Festival on the Green and presence at Earth Day.
4. A fall 2015 town wide significant tree planting with 89 trees planted. Special attention was paid to species diversity. Leaflets were delivered door to door and a mailing followed to all addresses that would be having trees planted adjacent to their properties.
5. An Arbor Day proclamation was made by the Mayor designating an official Arbor Day in Morristown for 2015 and a tree planting ceremony was held at Burnham Park on April 18<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the Burnham Park Association. Mayor Tim Dougherty, BPA president Lynn Siebert and STC chair Karl Roettger each spoke briefly at the event and four trees were planted.
6. Pursuing community partnerships the STC partnered with the Burnham Park Association in a joint Arbor Day celebration and engaged with Grow It Green Morristown to jointly explore an available TD Green Streets grant opportunity.
7. Tree City USA status was awarded and two signs in recognition were provided to the STC and given to DPW for mounting in prominent public locations (Speedwell Ave. & James St.)
8. Procedures and protocols were adopted to provide greater formal structure to STC meetings. A summary providing public information on policies regarding town trees and the STC was posted to the town website. At the request of the STC an existing formal agreement document for the purpose of planting town trees on private property was reviewed by DPW & the town attorney.
9. The STC participated in a number of meetings with DPW, the Town Administrator and the Zoning Official to facilitate understanding and to increase efficiencies and enhance teamwork in the management of the town

trees. The STC also managed formal requests from the public regarding town trees and reached out to members of the public seeking clarity on issues regarding town trees.

10. The town arborist provides the STC with a monthly “Forester’s Report” where all new requests for tree work are provided to the STC.

11. Met all requirements for Approved Status with the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act.

12. A budget was submitted to the Town Administrator for 2016:to include: \$100 for membership in the NJ Shade Tree Federation, \$1000 for continuing education and training, \$1000 for Arbor Day, \$1250 for public relations and awareness campaign.

Karl Roettger, Chair, Morristown Shade Tree Commission December 23, 2015