

**Shade Tree Commission Meeting
Town of Morristown
September 13, 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Kristin Ace

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call

Members present: Kristin Ace, Michael Rockland, Karl Roettger, Andree Jacobson, Cynthia Beagles

Members absent: Deb Regan

Guest: Richard Wolowicz (Forester)
George Aronson

Agenda Item 2: Open Public Meetings Act

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

Agenda Item 3: Minutes

Voting on approval of July and August minutes was tabled until next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Open Public Portion

No comments from public were made.

Agenda Item 5: Secretary

John Harris resigned from the Shade Tree Commission due to personal work load which creates a vacancy in the Secretary position for the Shade Tree Commission is vacant. Kristin provided a list of job duties for the position. Karl volunteered to be secretary for the rest of this year. Richard Wolowicz took minutes today.

Agenda Item 6: Business District Rejuvenation

- Kristin patrolled South St. Will meet with Anthony Devizio to discuss enlarging the tree pits, going out to bid for bio-char. Kristin informed us of the meeting held on South Street with Anthony Devizio, Jennifer Wehring (from The Partnership) and R. Wolowicz. Richard Fernicola met with group briefly before tour started and shared his opinion on fencing around the trees and their obstruction with snow removal operations.
- Aggregate porous pavement was brought up. Sales person will be here in October to discuss the product. This might be a good solution to the fencing issue. Kristin wants to include this in the South Street Business District Planting Plan. Question arose as to who will enlarge the tree pits.
- R Wolowicz to research the soil components of new and or old existing tree wells.
- Need to vote on certain aspects of project. There are 6 trees which are located in the middle of the sidewalk. 3 of the trees are dead or declining, so should the new tree pits go against the curb. Some of these trees are alive. Shade Tree Commission members need to look at these trees to form an educated decision for the October meeting and vote to move the wells and keep everything uniform or to leave the living trees in the middle of the sidewalk as currently built.
- Species selection: STC should review NJSTF's Trees for NJ Streets for tree suggestions along South Street. R Wolowicz to talk to landscape architect.

Agenda Item 7: Arborist Report

- A. 78 Western Ave
 - R Wolowicz reported that Mr. Finn has contracted with Cerbo Nurseries to plant 10 trees at the locations that will be provided. This will fulfill his obligation.
- B. 5 Lake St
 - K. Ace sent note to Jim Campbell re: that no action has happened on this yet.
- C. Sherman Ave
 - R. Wolowicz has been exchanging emails with owners re: gingko removal and replacement trees.
- D. CSIP
 - R. Wolowicz indicated that he has a copy of the grant and plans to review all of the state's requirements so the planting will be seamless.
- E. 53 Maple Ave
 - Shade Tree Commission was asked by the property owner of 53 Maple Ave to allow them to plant 3 Red maple trees in front of this property.
 - K. Roettger made the motion to allow property owner to plant 3 Red maples with the stipulation that the species is appropriate for the site (needs R. Wolowicz approval) and planted in accordance with industry standards for nursery stock and planting. K. Ace seconded and all members approved unanimously. Individual votes: K. Ace – yes; M. Rockland – yes; K. Roettger – yes; A. Jacobson – yes; C. Beagles – yes. Motion approved.
 - R. Wolowicz was to notify the property owner.
 - 15 Linden and 13 Liberty were just regular tree planting requests and those addresses were added to the database for future planting.
- F. Tree Plan for DPW
 - See below under Item 12.
- G. Streetscape Plan for Martin Luther King Drive
 - R. Wolowicz shared Engineering's MLK Streetscape plan with the STC. There is a question on some of the trees with regards to moving them and some of which are planted directly under the powerlines. Option is to remove the problematic trees and replace with an appropriate species. If the trees are not moved, then some of them will wind up next to the sidewalk, with a relatively wide planting strip. This will look quite off-centered. STC will look at them and provide opinion at their next meeting.

Agenda 8: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

- K. Ace and K. Roettger made the following motion re: The Shade Tree Commission's recommendation as to how to manage the Town's Ash trees and the EAB:
 - The Town of Morristown's Shade Tree Commission recommends that all sick, dying and ash trees in decline be removed. Additionally, all ash trees up to 12 inches in diameter also be removed. This is in accord with thoughts expressed by Dr. Sadoff (Purdue University). The Shade Tree Commission will continue to explore additional options as additional information becomes available. The Town should continue to explore coordination of efforts with the County, State of ANJ and the effected utilities.
 - Voting results: K. Ace – yes; M. Rockland – no; K. Roettger – yes; A. Jacobson – yes; C. Beagles – yes. Motion approved.

- Grow it Green wants to have the Ash tree in front of the garden on Elm Street treated for EAB control.

Agenda 9: Action Updates

- A. Protection of Trees
 - R. Wolowicz didn't have anything new to report at this time.
- Door hanger for new tree/water gators
 - K. Ace is waiting for the check to order the door hangers.
- Compensation of Trees Ordinance
 - K. Ace is waiting for the follow up from Town Attorney

Agenda 10: Fall Festival

- Date is 9/25/2016
- Suggestion was made to have 1 hour shifts and to sign up
- Mulch exhibit – Andree will provide this
- Tee Shirts – Deb Reagan was working on this
- Poster – K. Roettger showed a copy and shared some prices. At this time, it was not clear as to how it will be ordered and paid for.

Agenda 11: Awareness

- A motion was made by K. Ace and seconded by C. Beagles that a formal letter from the STC and the Town of Morristown should be mailed to locations where mulch volcanos were noticed. Individual votes: K. Ace – yes; M. Rockland – yes; K. Roettger – yes; A. Jacobson – yes; C. Beagles – yes. Motion was approved.
- Some notes from Rebecca Feldman for ideas/suggestions was tabled until the next meeting.
- TDI Grant
 - Candy and maybe Andree will chair.

Agenda 12: Meeting

- K. Ace shared about a meeting that was held with J. Barrick, R. Fernicola A. Devizio (had to leave early) and R. Wolowicz. Purpose of the meeting was to help define roles and activities of DPW and STC so no one is working against the other. J. Barrick wants R. Wolowicz to develop a maintenance plan for Morristown's trees. There will be another meeting between these parties on September 28, 2016.
- The Shade Tree Commission will have an opportunity to review the draft plan before it is presented.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM