

## **Morristown Shade Tree Commission(STC) Meeting Minutes**

Emergency Meeting, May 20, 2013

Rm. 201, 7-8:30 pm

Members present:

Tina Wahlstrom

Anne Bertucci

Joe Torres

Chantal Diedrich

Kristin Ace

### **I. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act**

Need for meeting could not have reasonably been foreseen, and we will only discuss the sidewalk repair issue. The requirement for a quorum has been met. The emergency meeting was posted on the town website.

### **II. Minutes**

Acceptance of the Minutes from the May 2013 meeting was deferred until next regular meeting on June 11th.

### **III. Sidewalk repair project**

Issue: On May 16, 2013 the Chair of the Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC) was notified by a resident who observed that sidewalk repair work was being done. The resident was concerned that tree roots had been damaged during removal of the sidewalks and provided pictures that supported that concern. The Chair of the STC contacted the Town Engineer who informed her that the DPW had undertaken a sidewalk repair project that was approved prior to the formation of the the STC. Because of the danger of significant damage to the community forest and the fact that our next meeting was not scheduled until June 11, 2013 an emergency meeting was called.

The STC considered several possible approaches and agreed on the following:

- Continue with Jeff's plan to have a knowledgeable Town employee supervise the daily work to prevent any further damage to municipal trees.
- Employ an arborist immediately to review the areas where work is scheduled to be done. S/he should provide expert input on how best to approach the handling of tree roots involved in side walk repair before the contractor initiates the repair.
- Issue a Stop Work Order immediately should any additional evidence of damage to tree roots or trees be discovered.
- Levy a fine on the contractor should any additional damage to trees be discovered.

Chantal made motion to approve, Joe seconded it, and all members in attendance voted unanimously to approve.

ACTION: Tina to send email to Michael Rogers, Tim Dougherty, STC, advising them of the STC recommendations. .

ACTION: any members available to do spot checks are encouraged to do so.

Meeting adjourned.