

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC43) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

September 8, 2015

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Karl Roettger, Chair

Kristin Ace, Vice Chair

Chantal Diedrich, Secretary

Joe Torres, Treasurer

Tina Wahlstrom

Michael Rockland

Members absent:

John Harris

Guest: Candy Beagles

1. Roll call

2. Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)

made by Kristin at 7:02. Kristin chaired meeting, so Karl can attend the council meeting to support the passage of the CFMP(see #7 below)by the Council.

3. Minutes: Kristin motioned to approve the July 28th meeting minutes, Chantal seconded and all approved.

4. Fall Festival details: The Morristown Fall Festival is on Sunday, September 27th, from 12-5 on the Green. Kristin has gathered Emerald Ash Borer brochures and Volcano Mulching brochures. We will have forms to fill if you would like a tree planted on your town right-of-way. Everyone has signed up for a 2 hour time slot. Kristin had a banner made for the table.

ACTION: Tina will search the Tree City USA site for information that could be printed and available at the Festival

5. Arborist Report: Rich did not attend but sent an update via email. Fall planting is out for quote. Addresses of dead trees have been given to DPW for removal. Replacement of Callery Pear at CVS at crosswalk....tree was removed, now CVS will plant replacement(s). Motion was made by Kristin that the STC should only accept trees, not \$ for replacement when a tree must be removed

from a public area. A formula will be used for replacement value. Also that our arborist shall choose the species and location, and will oversee planting by their contractor. Tina seconded, and all approved.

- 6. Review of Protection of Trees during construction:** Tina made a motion to have the current Tree Protection ordinance updated to meet current standards. A construction fence should be placed around the dripline of the tree during the construction process. Chantal seconded, and all agreed. **ACTION:** Kristin will reach out to Rebecca Feldman on the council to find out what the process is to change the ordinance.
- 7. Requirements for STC:** Council will vote on our CFMP tonight, and then the mayor will sign it, and send it off to New Jersey Community Forestry Program. If they don't receive it and approve it on time, we will lose our Approved Status as a STC. Approved Status allows us to apply for grants and and receive legal protections from the state. We also need additional CEU's for this year. **ACTION:** Michael agreed to attend a class on September 22nd to receive 4 additional CEU's, which will bring us to our requirement.
- 8. Richard Ray/ Elm Street garden timeline:** A complaint was received by the STC regarding the recent removal of the Elm Street Island plantings. The complainant informed the STC that Mr. Ray had removed the garden and blamed the STC for his actions. Therefore a review of previous interactions with Mr. Ray was undertaken. Summary-At our June 11, 2013 and July 9th, 2013 STC meetings, we approved a plan for the Elm Street garden plantings. We stated that the roots from the existing pear tree need to be protected during planting of other plants. Between June and July meetings, Kathleen Margiotta and the DPW tree crew severely pruned the pear tree to allow sunlight for the plantings, and they excavated the dirt from around the existing pear tree. They did not request or receive permission from the STC to prune the tree or excavate around the roots. At the time, Kristin was walking by and saw the excavation to the tree and asked the people to stop their work. Subsequently a site visit was undertaken with Jeff Hartke, Tina Wahlstrom, and Rich Wolowicz to assess the potential harm that had been done to the Callary Pear tree. Rich confirmed that the

degree of excavation was potentially harmful since soil was being removed from the tree roots.

Two years later, August 2015, Richard Ray attended the STC meeting (see 11 Aug 2015 meeting minutes)Mr. Ray removed all the plants out of the Elm Street island (over Labor Day-September 7th weekend). He did not get permission to remove town shrubs there which is in violation of the STC Ordinance. Mr. Ray has also informed others that he has done this because of the STC. **Action:** Kristin will reach out to Kevin Coughlin to ask if he writes about this, could he contact the STC to get our side of the story first. Karl has been reaching out to the Mayor to discuss without success(the Mayor has been unavailable)

9. Meeting Adjourned 8:30.