DATE: February 14, 2017  
7 pm – 8:30pm  
Room 201/ Town Hall

1. Roll Call  
In attendance:  
- Kristin Ace, Chair  
- Deborah Regan, Vice Chair (late)  
- John Mitchell, Secretary  
- Michael Rockland, Member (late)  
- Richard Wolowicz, Town Arborist

2. Statement of compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)  
Chair Kristin Ace cited compliance with the O.P.M.A.

3. Review of Minutes: January 2017  
Motion to accept January minutes

Motion moved by: Kristin Ace  
Motion seconded by: John Mitchell  

Votes  
Kristin Ace Yes  
John Mitchell Yes  
Deborah Regan Yes  
Michael Rockland Not present  

Motion approved

February 14 meeting with the Mayor – Kristin Ace

Kristin Ace met with Jillian Barrick and Mayor Dougherty on February 14, 2017. Mayor will announce that the commission needs members at upcoming town council meeting and at the town senior center. Kristin Ace will announce at Morristown’s Got Talent.  
Tree watering – Rich Fernicola will manage watering trees every two weeks. Mayor prefers town tree crew rather than the arborist to be responsible.  
Commission is responsible for monitoring when tree gaiters get put on in April. Make sure they are filled at two-week intervals during season. If problems are observed, commissioners will address it to arborist, not to the DPW.  
DPW will not have a member in CORE training for the TD Green Grant. Does not affect the grant as it was not required.  
John Mitchell will attend CORE training in April at Rutgers. Flexipave has been approved by the Mayor.

Town budget will be passed in March after which town will issue RFP for biochar. Flexipave vendor is sole provider in state. Project needs to begin by June 1. Otherwise, wait to fall.
Motion to change commission quorum to two persons given current membership deficit.

Motion moved by: Kristin Ace
Motion seconded by: Deborah Regan Motion

Votes
Rockland   Yes
Mitchell    Yes
Regan       Yes
Ace         Yes

Motion approved

Arborist Report

CSIP Grant – Rich Wolowicz will communicate pre-maintenance plan and location and which species of trees to the state. Plan will go out within a week, needs approval. Once received, will then go out to bid.
Madera44 – Rich Wolowicz will cut the bags around the problem trees. Jillian Barrick has communicated with the property.
Ash tree removal – DPW has removed 26 of 65 smaller ash trees along town roads - flyer was left with owners and neighbors where trees will be removed. County and state roads will be done later. Aim is to remove smaller trees and reduce food supply and hazard. Need for public information is noted. Burnham Park – tree work is not yet scheduled. DPW is focusing on the ash trees currently.
30 Sherman place – Owner insists a tree be removed. Tree is damaging the driveway and there are no sidewalks in front of the house. Rich Wolowicz will confer with town attorney to understand who has responsibility for - to amend the driveway lift. Tree will not be removed. May take some time to determine.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Chemical information

Discussion on merits and drawbacks of using chemical agents to treat town’s ash tree population against EAB:
Chemicals all have risks and would need application over a 10 to 12 year period, based on population of the Emerald Ash Borer.
Decline of the ash trees from EAB is mostly prevented when the trees are managed with these treatments.
Decision is made to recommend against using chemical agents at this time and to proceed instead with intelligent removal of ash and replacement of the street-side trees with other species.
Town has a total of approximately 150 Ash trees on the street/town right of way. The Ash Tree population is still being recorded in the parks.
Town should focus on reducing the removal costs. After removing smaller trees, about 80 Ash will be left.
Ash trees located in town woods will be left in place for the time being.
Communication has been done and further communication is planned to educate the public about EAB situation. A flyer has been approved that can be sent out to town residents.

Motion to communicate that the Morristown Shade Tree Commission recommends against using EAB chemical treatment at this time:
Motion moved by: Kristin Ace
Motion seconded by: Michael Rockland
Votes
Ace – Yes
Rockland - Yes
Regan - Yes
Mitchell – Yes
Motion approved

Value of Trees Ordinance

Has not been on the agenda for town council. Will be in March.

Protection of Trees Ordinance

Town Engineer (Anthony Devizio) and Rich Wolowicz - met with Kristin Ace – Core issue is in sidewalk work, vs building new houses, shopping centers, etc.
Will meet with Anthony Divizio again to discuss and bring back to commission for a vote.

Bartlett tree training will take place on Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Kristin Ace will attend
John Mitchell will attend

TD Green Grant update

Deborah Regan, Kristin Ace and John Mitchell– Met with Anthony LoFranco of the Morris School District to discuss logistics for planning the Arbor Day events that will be sponsored by the grant.
Deborah Regan and John Mitchell will create short articles for public relations purposes.
Anthony LoFranco will handle the lesson planning for the students.
Morristown High School and Lafayette learning center will be the focus of educational activities and tree planting.
The primary event will take place at the high school, on April 22nd.
This will be the official town Arbor Day event.

The planning for this is urgent and the commission will schedule “emergency” meetings for later in February to discuss action plan. Dates will be decided by the end of the week, and OPMA compliance will be met with an official announcement of meeting times at least 48 hours in advance.

Discussion of the Wells Fargo parking lot situation

On Dehart St, alongside the Wells Fargo lot, there is a long open strip that could have about 8 trees planted on it. It has no trees. Must be determined what the property rights are and if the town can plant there.

Website discussion
The shade tree commission discussed options for creating its own website. The idea has been approved by the town administration. Town will take contact and set the website up. Commission does not have autonomy over the website. Any content needs to be approved by Jillian Barrick.

Outline of the website will be drafted and reviewed, then placed on the agenda for the March meeting.

**Action Updates**

a. mulch flyers ~ Kristin  
Mulch flyers have been approved and should be distributed by commission members. Proposal will be made that town council distribute the flyer to their constituents.

b. article to MG.com ~ Kristin  
The article was sent to Morristown Green.

c. Speedwell Avenue private owners ~ Deb  
Deborah has not been able to get the information yet on ownership of the property and will follow up with Jennifer Wehring.

d. 80 Elm ~ Kristin  
Owner at 80 Elm wants trees in front removed. Commission believes these will be dealt with within the scope of Business District Tree Rejuvenation Plan and that individual owner needs cannot be accommodated at this time.

**Adjourn time:** Meeting ended at 8:21 PM.