

## Morristown Shade Tree Commission Minutes

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 7pm  
Room 201/ Town Hall

### 1. Roll Call

#### Present:

Bob Norkin  
Deb Regan – Vice Chairperson  
Kristin Ace – Chairperson  
Michael Rockland  
Monica Orecchio – Secretary  
Rich Wolowicz – Town Arborist  
Sandi Mayer

#### Absent:

JoAnn Casadevall

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

3. Minutes – December & January - **APPROVED**

4. Open Public Portion (limited to 5 minutes per individual)

No one attended.

5. Arborist Report

#### **SYSTEMATIC TRIMMING**

- Ken's Tree Care finished the systematic trimming. There are about 6 trees that he needs to address. This contract holds a 20% retainage until after leaf-out. At that time, one additional inspection is done and then payment will be made if everything is good.

#### **PLANTING**

- Worked on updating the spring planting list with locations and species. Should be ready in late February.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Removed gator bags from Lafayette Learning Center
- Looked at Pocahontas Park for possible grant site.
- Received stump-grinding quote from Stumpbusters for ash tree stump in front of Early Street garden

#### **FIELD INSPECTIONS/OBSERVATIONS**

ADDRESS	COMPLAINT	OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
38 Headly	Removal req	Not sure if this is on town ROW.	Pending
15 Madison	Wants to remove tree for driveway	Owner decided to wait until Town removed the ash tree.	Closed
77 W Valley View	Crack in tree	Frost crack, should be ok but will check periodically in future	Completed

a. 300-600 tree trim 2019 – 2018 tree trimming is completed; with only a few go backs that need to be addressed in spring. One more inspection will be done after the trees leaf out.

**ACTION:** Kristin will check with Jillian to ask that the STC gets \$60K in the budget for tree trimming for 2019

b. GIGM - Grow It Green Morristown community garden Ash – the Ash Tree centerpiece tree is now removed; stump grinding contract was awarded to Stump Busters; date of grinding TBD

c. stump removal – Rich is going to meet with Troy about grinding approximately 30 stumps around town as gleaned from the STC Ward Inventory; there are several on Speedwell that need to be ground as well before the end of spring to allow the gases to dissipate for a fall planting and the biochar/flexipave project

d. Spring planting

e. Lidgerwood Park – a tree that had a large split in it and had become a hazard due to its proximity to the playground was removed. The residents in the area were upset and called the Mayor. Once the Mayor and Jillian were appraised of the situation, the residents were contacted and everything was explained. Rich is meeting with Jillian and the Tree Crew on Thursday to show Jillian a few more trees that must be removed so that residents can be informed. The Tree Crew will alert the Mayor with any tree removals in parks or trees on public property.

f. tree planting locations – Rich delivered a list of the locations for new tree planting; the planting is planned to be completed by May 31, 2019

**ACTION:** Kristin will send Rich her letter to residents informing them that they are going to receive a tree in front of their property on the public right of way.

**ACTION:** Michael will reach out to the Mason's Lodge to ascertain if they are interested in planting trees on the Oak Street side of their property; there is room for 3 trees there; their permission is required because it is private property.

## 6. Resident Tree Issues

a. 1 Farragut – status still under consideration

b. Footes Pond – Friends of Foote Pond reached out to Rich to discuss the planting of 2 trees (1 Dogwood & 1 Black Cherry) that were gifted to them by the Environmental Commission; the trees are still in the original plastic container

**ACTION:** Rich will inspect the trees and determine if the trees are viable for planting and, if so, he will give The Friends his recommendation for the best locations to plant the 2 trees

The Friends also asked Rich to plan a walkabout of the park around the pond to help them identify the trees they already have there; Kristin suggested that they be invited to join the STC during our planned CEU training on tree identification that Rich already has tentatively planned for the STC on June 8, 2019; this date still needs to be confirmed

**ACTION:** Rich will check with The Friends to see if June 8<sup>th</sup> will work for their group as well

**ACTION:** Sandi will check to see if this collaboration with The Friends of Foote Pond will meet the requirements for our Growth Award; if it does meet the requirements, Sandi will add this to the list of accomplishments towards our Growth Award

c. Parking Authority salting – Since December 2018 Kristin has noticed extreme over salting on the sidewalks 4 times on Franklin and Elm Streets; she provided dated photos of 3 occasions; Kristin reached out to the Morristown Parking Authority (MPA) and pointed out the over salting and asked them to consider the health of the grass and plantings near the sidewalks to include the town trees by reducing the amount of salt used; Kristin's comments were not heeded so Kristin sent the photos to Jillian Barrick, First Ward Councilman Bob Iannaccone and the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee as the Chairperson of the STC to alert all of the environmental risks due to the salt. Jillian reached out to the MPA and asked them to reduce the salting. Kristin told Bob Iannaccone that she is having the soil around these over salted sidewalks tested and if the soil proves to be harmful to the trees and damage does result, then the MPA should be held responsible for replacement costs; Mr. Iannaccone said that he happened to be meeting with the MPA that very evening and would bring the matter up

## 7. Arbor Day

a. town clean up on April 27 – the Town has determined that they will do the Annual Town Clean Up on the same day we happen to have tentatively planned our Arbor Day activities;

Kristin proposed that we consider two other dates so as not to conflict with the town activities; dates to be considered are Friday, April 26, 2019 at 5PM or Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 10AM

**ACTION:** Kristin will check with the Mayor on his availability for either date and let the STC know the preferred date

b. Arbor Day activities and possible grant – if the STC is awarded the TD Bank grant, we will conduct our Arbor Day planting in Pocahontas Park; if we are not awarded the grant, we will **possibly** plant the Arbor Day tree in the GIGM garden to replace the centerpiece tree that was removed

**ACTION:** Kristin will reach out to the Executive Director of GIGM and inquire about tentative plans to plant the Arbor Day tree in the same spot that the large Ash tree was removed at the entrance of the community garden

8. Lights on Trees – Sandi – Sandi crafted a draft letter to be sent to the Morristown Businesses Partnership; there was a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the action

**VOTE:**

The STC voted unanimously to reaffirm the original ruling of the STC five years ago to not allow lights or decorations of any kind to be placed on or in town owned trees

9. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) update

a. Ash removal plan – Troy and Rich are discussing the pacing and scheduling of the removal of all town owned ash trees

10. Business District Tree Wells

a. Phase 3 – 80 tree wells are to be completed with the Flexipave treatment in Phase 3

11. Kellogg Club (KC) Partnership

a. type of trees – Sargent Cherry and Amur Maackia

b. timing – TBD; KC will take down the trees just before the spring planting occurs in order to minimize the unsightliness of a barren street before the new trees are planted between the stumps that will be ground out at a later date

**ACTION:** Rich will determine the value of the tree removal and cost of the trees to be planted

c. PR

**ACTION:** Kristin will provide to the town marketing department the details of the project and partnership with KC so that appropriate marketing and/or articles can be prepared and distributed through the appropriate channels

d. MOU (memorandum of understanding) – Kristin has finalized the MOU with the KC

**ACTION:** Kristin will send the final draft to the STC for informational purposes

12. Awareness

a. what is a public tree - article for MG.com – Deb – delivery of product will be postponed until March STC meeting

13. Grant

a. TD Bank Grant Innovations in Park-Based Green Infrastructure - Monica & Kristin – Monica and Kristin presented the plan for the revitalization of Pocahontas Park; Monica shared the map that details the placement of parking, walkways, trees, soccer field, pavilions and picnic tables; there are several groups partnering with the town in order to get this project completed

(Habitat for Humanity – pavilions and picnic tables; Sustainable Morristown and United for Healthy Living); Kristin discussed the distribution of funds of the anticipated award of \$20,000

Monica provided details of our partnership with Habitat for Humanity (HH) who has \$2,700 left over from their grant to put towards the purchase of new trees for Pocahontas Park as well; HH will allow the STC to determine the variety, number and placement of the trees purchased with their grant money; Monica brought up the confusion surrounding the name of the park; some people call it Pocahontas Park while others consider it to be a part of Speedwell Park a much larger park directly across the street from that area in question; Monica asked if some clarification might be provided and a possible sign be considered a part of the revitalization; Kristin stated that the sign would be a town responsibility

**ACTION:** Kristin will speak to Anthony and Jillian to see if she can find out if there is a recognized name for the park

Angela Echeverri invited the STC to join a United for Healthy Living meeting to further develop our partnership; meeting to be held on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:30 PM at St. Margaret's Church; Bob, Sandi, Deb and Kristin will attend; STC is also invited to a Sustainable Morristown meeting as well on Wednesday, March 6.2019 at 6:00 PM at MPAC; Kristin, Deb and Sandi will attend

b. Green Communities Grant – Kristin announced that we received the grant for \$3000 that will be used to pay for the development of our CFMP; CFMP must be finalized before the end of the year

14. Private Tree Ordinance – Sandi – Sandi presented the proposed draft; STC discussed some proposed edits and adjustments to v.5; STC voted to accept all edits and accept v.6 as the final draft to be provided to the town

**VOTE:** Sandi made motion; Deb seconded; vote was unanimous

**ACTION:** Sandi will finalize v.6 and send out to STC

**ACTION:** Kristin will send finalized v.6 to Jillian and Vij

15. Planting tree with ashes – a resident approached the town with a request to donate a tree to a public park and upon planting of the memorial tree to add their loved one's ashes to the soil where the tree would be planted

16. Old Growth Forest seminar – Sandi – Sandi attended this seminar and reported back that it was extremely informative and recommended all attend whenever possible; very worthwhile; Sandi's summary of the seminar is as follows:

It was informative to how we are losing our old growth forests in the US.

There is a need to maintain the forests and to allow any natural destruction to remain as is. That is, if a tree falls in the forest, let it be. There is no need to remove fallen trees as they provide natural habitat to the animals and other living organisms that live in our forests.

Also discussed was the harvesting of trees in large swaths throughout the US and there is no way to stop it at this point.

16. General Business:

a. CEU protocol – JoAnn is in charge of this aspect; if you come across any offerings that award CEU credit please let JoAnn know about it so she can let the rest of the STC know about the opportunity; if there are costs associated with a training, your attendance must first be approved by Jillian Barrick through Kristin before asking JoAnn to register you; JoAnn will also handle all registration and make arrangements for the city to cover the cost of registration; the town will pay for any appropriate trainings that provide CEU credits; if you register yourself, it is your responsibility to give JoAnn the proper documentation for reimbursement

b. Zoning & Planning Board plans – currently Kristin and Rich routinely scan all Planning Board, Land Use and Board of Adjustment documents for mention of tree removal; Sandi volunteered to help

**ACTION:** Kristin will get Sandi added to James Campbell’s email list for all zoning applications

c. Actions – since JoAnn was absent, Kristin reviewed all outstanding action items

d. Growth Award –

e. STC tablecloth & amenities – Kristin announced that the tablecloth has been paid for and will be ready for pick up in the next few weeks; the box with various items is still held up in budget discussions

f. bamboo ordinance update – Kristin is waiting to hear from Jillian regarding when to present this to the Town Council

**ACTION:** Kristin will ask Jillian and the Mayor about any potential progress or required points of clarification

New Business: none

Adjourned 9:55PM