

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

As established by the Town of Morristown Ord. No. O-2-2013; Ord. No. O-12-2017

Meeting Minutes

January 19th, 2021

7PM Zoom call (insert link to recorded session)

1. Roll Call

Present	Name	Role	email address
x	Kristin Ace (KA)	President	k-ace@townofmorristown.org
x	Deb Regan (DR)	Vice President	dmreganstc@gmail.com
x	Paula Zimin (PZ)	Secretary	pz.stc.morristown@gmail.com
x	Michael Rockland (MR)	Member	rockland@amerstudies.rutgers.edu
x	Robert Bell (RB)	Member	robert.j.bell.92@gmail.com
x	Robert Norkin (RN)	Member	judyudi@yahoo.com
x	Aaron Oliver (AO)	Member	aaron.j.oliver@gmail.com
absent	Susan Landau (SL)	Alternate	slandau.stc@gmail.com
x	Sandi Mayer (SM)	Town Council Liaison	s-mayer@townofmorristown.org
x	Rich Wolowicz (RW)	Town Arborist	shadetree@townofmorristown.org

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

Acknowledged. This meeting was conducted in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings act.

Clarification: facts and resources can be sent to the STC via email - opinions should not be shared, but concerns can be brought to attention to Chairperson, which then can be added to the agenda and discussed as a committee.

3. Approve December Meeting Minutes

Unanimous Approval.

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

NONE

5. Arborist Report

a. Systematic Trimming 2020

Trimming contract awarded in December - status is on track. Expect work to be complete in 4-6 weeks, weather and access to trees due to parked cars can impede. Trimming is planned around Mills Street and around Hilairy Ave, Liberty (between MLK and opposite the cemetery), formal streets to be distributed to the STC. About 400-500 trees will be trimmed.

b. Ann Street Trees

RW wrote letter to Zoning Department expressing deficiency of and growing conditions around new trees at new development. Tomorrow and Thursday, the trees will be opened for visual inspection (RW and KA to visit on Thursday morning for inspect)

c. Bank Street Trees

RW wrote letter to Zoning Department expressing deficiency of and growing conditions around new trees at new development. Awaiting response for next steps.

6. Resident Tree Issues

a. Tree Destruction Ward 3 – Paula & Sandi

Pending conversation with Councilman Armington. No planting will take place in Ward 3 in 2021 since planting was done in 2020. PZ scheduled meeting with Stefan Armington which was cancelled. Trying to reschedule.

7. Business District

a. Tree wells on Cattano

Coordinate with parking authority – *Pending next flexipave project*

b. flexipave 2021

No update.

c. biochar 2021

No update.

8. Invasive

a. Ash removal - Park status

- a. 60% of Ash trees have been removed in George Gramby Park. Also removing dangerous trees (decayed) and tackling vines and trimming. Expect work to continue for another two weeks, weather permitting.
- b. Burnham Park is next. Also, will pick up hazardous trees. Split Ash tree next to field house will be prioritized.

b. Ailanthus removal

- a. KA contacted Mike Van Clef regarding treatment of Ailanthus trees. Requested quote from Van Clef for treatment of Ailanthus trees in Morristown parks. Estimate was \$1,000, can be completed in 1-2 days, in July or August.
- b. To offset this invasive treatment expense, STC could pursue grants which tend to focus on planting new trees.
 - **ACTION:** PZ to identify someone at State to understand whether the Ailanthus within the riparian buffer can be treated for removal. Contact Andrew Hipolit for potential contact.
 - **ACTION:** STC park team leads to identify where Ailanthus trees are located - quantify.

- **MOTION** proposed by KA, seconded by PZ: STC will use up to \$2000 of our 2021 STC budget for Ailanthus invasive treatment by Mike Van Clef using his recommended treatment – **VOTE passed.**
 Bob Norkin - yes
 Aaron - yes
 Michael - yes
 Paula - yes
 RJ - yes
 Kristin - yes

9. Partnerships

a. Foote's Pond Wood Restoration Team

FoFPW has requested the following motion:

MOTION made by KA, seconded by RJ Bell. FoFPW is approved to plant live stakes along the shoreline of the pond in the spring of 2021 – **VOTE passed.**

Bob - yes

Aaron - yes

Michael - yes

Paula - yes

RJ - yes

Kristin - yes

b. Traction Line - update from RJ

- RJ met with County Park representatives this past month. County parks is generally willing to assist with Traction Line improvements.
- Similar volunteer requirements including waivers are required. County parks typically hosts single day events, but are open to longer term planning efforts such as strike teams, adopt a spot, etc.
- Lots of invasives, particularly Japanese Knotweed - would need to figure out how to remove. Would need to cut back regularly and correctly - STC will need to coordinate, County Parks will support.
- Initial effort will focus on invasive removal. Eventually, next effort can be replanting, but this will need coordination with county maintenance crew.
- Extent of county property:
 - can work up to fence on the track side.
 - on the neighborhood side - work up to fence
 - County Parks has map and GPS assistance - there may be confusion of where public vs private property is
- How should we prioritize traction line efforts in comparison to Town park neighborhood participation.
- STC generally agreed that Town parks should be priority, but willing to support efforts to improve Traction Line park with sufficient neighbor support.

c. TD Bank Grant - **Pending**

10. Awareness

a. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula

Tremendous Tree Proposal

ACTIONS

- PZ to set up gmail to handle submissions
- KA to coordinate with Kristin Wedderburn - how to promote on town website
- KA press release from town? feature article on trees at end of year.
- timeframe: a tree per season just to start off
- VOTING options
 - voting on social media.
 - invite public to attend an STC meeting where we review nominations and vote on a winner
- Award?
 - proclamation from the town
 - Morristown Partnership gift certificate

b. tree donation letter

High-resolution jpg of STC's logo has been provided.

STC member preferences:

Susan - likes 2 or 4 (left logo)

Aaron - likes 2 or 4 (left logo)

Michael - (abstain)

Paula - likes 1 (centered logo)

RJ - likes 1 (centered logo)

Deb - likes 1 (centered logo)

Kristin - likes 2 (fuller tree, offset logo)

fuller canopy wins... centered logo wins by flip of a coin

ACTION: RB / PZ to collaborate on minor graphic design improvements

c. Instagram awareness clips – ***Pending***

ACTION: KA will inquire with Town along with Tree Contest.

d. Salt Awareness

Problem with parking authority oversalting sidewalk. Idea to develop an awareness letter.

- Linda Stamato / Marge at Parking Authority contacted- were not aware, waiting for next big storm to confirm if communication has been effective.
- Will this effort be successful? Communication to date has not been productive. Is a bill or a fine the best way to get attention?
- What is our objective? Writing a letter won't necessarily be effective if our communication efforts have not been fruitful to date.
- Parking Authority is a private authority. Is there a regulatory action? Over-salting causing issues to the town, pollutes waterways, etc.
- Can we invite a representative to one of our meetings. Can an STC representative attend a PA meeting?

11. Ordinance

Tree Well Ordinance

- Effort to clarify existing ordinance, has become more complex than previously envisioned. Waiting on update from Town.

12. Liaison Update

a. Council

No update.

ACTION - KA to send STC update to SM, including 2020 Tree Planting report, 2021 expectations.

b. Zoning

- Letter for 281 Speedwell sent - planting schedule included Japanese Barberry. Next meeting scheduled for 1/20/21 (will confirm in latest agenda). Will reiterate during meeting the request to change planting plan to exclude invasives.
- 23 South Street - rain garden and tree well discussed on DeHart Street. No planting plan. Need clarification of location of tree well and rain garden and role with stormwater treatment.

c. Planning Board

- 126-136 South Street - added tree wells, includes natives. Will be tracking planting plans as they development. Pocket park is being proposed
- Racket club (James Street) - initial application to expand parking and courts; STC is interested in confirming if this will require tree removal.

d. Burnham Park Association (BPA)

- Master Plan update - expect draft plan in February for final public comment
- Invasives Strike Force update
ACTION: Paula to send Invasives Strike Force plan
- Arbor Day opportunity - STC is planting approximately 30 trees in Burnham Park in spring, all around Burnham Pool from entry road all along roadway and around to the playground. Species will include red bud, serviceberry, american dogwood, and river birch. This is the only planting approved until the Master Plan is completed. Does BPA want to add to spring for an Arbor Day celebration rather than forgo?
ACTION: Paula and Kristin to review tree planting, meet at Burnham Park to understand plan and review devining effort.

12. Parks Report

● **Woodhull Park - Aaron**

- Met with Councilman Iannaccone who is supportive and has names for potential volunteer group leads. Will continue to communicate to find potential volunteer leaders.
- Requested map for park to clarify boundaries of park.
- Neighboring property is dilapidated - can part of property be donated to expand park?

Ward 2 Parks – RN, RB, MR

- Met with Councilwoman Cotten and she is enthusiastic of project. She is reaching out to community leaders to investigate interest. Targeting end of January to walk through parks and continue planning.
- STC should follow up with flyer advertising efforts.
- Planning a standing monthly meeting with Councilwoman Cotten.

● **Elliott Park - Paula**

- meeting with Stefan Armington was cancelled and will be rescheduled and update by next meeting.
ACTION: Park Reports to be sent to respective Councilpersons only AFTER initial discussion. KA to send to park leads.
- send to Ward 1, 2, and 4. waiting for 3 (PZ to wait to send to Councilman Armington)

13. General Business

NONE

New Business

Communication with Town Tree Crew

Two trees recently removed without Town Arborist approval as outlined below. Town Administrator has met with DPW tree crew and Town Arborist to clarify communication requirements, and enforcing the required approval of Town Arborist to remove any Town trees.

a. Community Garden Elm

Healthy Elm tree cut by Morristown tree crew. KA will meet with Grow It Green Morristown to discuss potential actions. Poor judgement and timing - concern about security. The vegetation was obstructing security lighting which was allowing unwanted behavior in area. Clarify why STC was not consulted.

ACTION: KA to discuss with Michael Corcoran (Public Safety Director): will new planned 15 trees because of concern related to public safety? Identify who may have requested the removal of this tree? Where did the order come from? Reinforce new STC directive regarding removal of town trees requiring Arborist written approval.

b. Ford Avenue tree removal

Tree removed without Town Arborist review and approval. Town Arborist requested probe of tree. Probe was conducted, tree was taken down before Arborist approved.

MOTION made by KA, seconded by DR: Establishing method of procedure that no tree can be removed without written approval from the Town Arborist. **VOTE**

approved

Aaron - yes

Michael - yes

RJ - yes

Paula - yes

Bob - yes

Deb - yes

Kristin - yes

Adjourn: 10:06pm