

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

February 16th, 2021

7PM Zoom call, recorded

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 |
| absent | 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.

3. Approve January 2021 Meeting Minutes

Unanimous Approval.

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

NONE

5. Arborist Report

a. Systematic Trimming 2020

Scheduled to start at end of February. Snow has delayed this effort. May not start until March.

b. Ann Street Trees

Rich observed tree removal and burlap cutting. Spring flexipave planned. Letter of approval sent to Town Zoning.

c. Bank Street Trees

No response yet received.

d. Kenmuir Ave - Several trees dying in one area of street. RW has started communication with PSEG, suspect gas leak is causing issues.

ACTION: RW to reconnect with contact to confirm.

6. Resident Tree Issues

a. Tree Destruction Ward 3 – Paula & Sandi

PZ discussed the destruction of trees with Councilman Armington. Suggested tracking trees in area annual Ward 3 tree report.

ACTION: PZ will work with Councilman Armington to identify neighborhood tree champions. PZ to reach out to St. Margaret's Church to gauge interest in collaboration.

7. Business District

a. Tree wells on Cattano

Parking authority – *Pending next flexipave project*

b. flexipave 2021 - pending

c. biochar 2021 - pending

8. Invasive

a. Ash removal - Park status

- a. Granby Park ash tree removal is complete.
- b. Work has started at Burnham Park, but snow has hindered progress. Access to trees from road continues - removed split ash next to field house. Several others have been removed, but many more are planned. Dropping some trees where it makes sense. Work will be postponed until summer when ground starts to thaw.
- c. Snow has interrupted work schedule. Additional removals include cluster of Ash trees at Speedwell Park and along Speedwell Ave. An Ailanthus tree will be removed here as well. Will also grind stump to ensure the tree does not regenerate saplings

9. Partnerships

a. Friends of Footes Pond – Forest Strike Team

SL is doing training which she will report back on in spring. Slow work progress in winter months.

b. Traction Line - update from RJ

RJ will be developing invasives strike plan over next 2-3 months.

c. Lowes parking lot

Lowes on Hanover Avenue and mulch volcanoes. Hanover Twp development guarantee of tree health has not yet been met.

d. TD Bank Grant - *Pending*

e. Tree Recovery – Arbor Day Foundation

Planning for annual tree seedling giveaway.

MOTION: STC will participate in the annual tree seedling program. **VOTE Passed**

RJ: yes

Bob: yes

Paula: yes

Michael: yes

Deb: yes

Kristin: yes

ACTION: KA will order 300 trees.

Trees will be distributed after STC's Arbor Day celebration in nearby parking lot such as Town parking lot or MHS parking lot or other.

f. Jersey Cottage Park

Replace burning bush plants growing near playground. Councilwoman Cotten invited to speak during meeting. Councilwoman Cotten expressed there is an opportunity to replace these invasive species and contribute to beautification of the park.

ACTION: KA to participate in information session hosted by Councilwoman Cotten on February 24 to explain to constituents why invasives need to be removed and plan for replacement. Additional discussion on grants (see below).

10. Grants

a. Potential Grants:

- Rotary Club - \$2,500
- J. Porter Community Tree Project Award (Community Development) - \$2,500

ACTION: Develop general proposal for beautification of parks, including Jersey Cottage Park, submit grant for Rotary Club and J. Porter.

b. TD Bank Grant – *Pending*

11. Awareness

a. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula

KA confirmed use of Town's Instagram page for voting. Town can post context flyer.

ACTION: PZ to set up email for contest, finalize flyer and send to STC for review

b. Instagram awareness clips – *Pending*

ACTION: KA will inquire with Mayor.

c. Ailanthus tree article

MOTION to approve Ailanthus tree article publication. **VOTE Passed**

RJ: yes

Bob: yes

Deb: yes

Paula: yes

Michael: yes
Kristin: yes

d. School Outreach - Tree Fostering Program (2022 planning)

SM suggested fostering a tree program for public schools.

Program would be a coordination with local schools. Children can plant saplings and foster through several years until large enough to plant in Town.

ACTION: KA will investigate potential for Normandy Park School and Lafayette School. SM to investigate at Thomas Jefferson with Councilwoman Cotten.

12. Ordinance

a. Tree Well Ordinance

KA and SM met with Town Administration. Existing tree planting specifications need to be updated. M-1 Administrative Checklist - add #12 in the checklist related to trees as part of public right of way.

ACTION: SM to coordinate checklist with RW and submit to Council for approval. This will be submitted in lieu of tree well ordinance.

13. Liaison Update

a. Council

Provided STC update to Town Council at last meeting. No additional update.

b. Zoning / Planning Board

- New location for 7/11 on Pine Street, one new tree on Morris will be following town specifications. Town asked for more trees. Planting schedule looks good, lots of natives. 7/11 corporation has contractor that will take care of planting.

- No updates on other on-going projects.

- KA had meeting with proposed 23 South development about raingarden plan. Suggested three trees in lieu of the rain garden to be located elsewhere on DeHart or Maple.

c. Burnham Park Association

- Arbor Day coordination - will be discussed with BPA at monthly meeting tomorrow night.
ACTION: PZ will send update on BPA's thoughts.
- Invasive removal plan to be confirmed with BPA also tomorrow
ACTION: PZ to send finalized plan after meeting tomorrow.
- Tree removal plan review shared with BPA.
ACTION: KA to ask Jillian about BP Master Plan update.

14. Parks Report

- **Woodhull Park - AO**
 - Continued conversations with Councilman Iannaccone. Planning on-going.
- **Ward 2 Parks – RJ, BN, MR**
 - On-going conversations on strike force leaders.
- **Elliott Park - PZ**

- Councilman Armington is supportive of invasive removal in parks and engaging with surrounding neighborhood.

ACTION: PZ to continue conversations with Councilman Armington to identify strike for team leaders.

ACTION: All Commission Members asked to identify community strike team leaders for each park

- **Budd Park - KA**

- KA to meet with Anthony Devizio about a creek that runs under Budd Park. Can this creek be opened up?
- Joe Curlo will be removing fencing from tree in Budd Park - start with one tree as test tree before spring.

15. General Business

Summary of yearly activities of STC:

- Annual Report, CFMP, achievements according to CFMP, how many trees planted and pruned. We have to spend at least \$2/capita (19,000 population)
- Tree City USA, complete from with data from Annual Report
- Growth Award - need 10 points every year
 - Expect an award in 2020
 - Qualifications are tricky this year - we've already achieved many of the qualifications.
- Each Commission Member Must do at least 1 CEU per calendar year.
 - Will circle back to CEUs in July. Each Commission Member is responsible for tracking own CEUs
- Tracking volunteer hours
 - KA typically estimates hours; meeting hours can be estimated
 - Park coordination hours will need to be tracked by each Commission Member and reported back to KA at the end of the year.
- Meeting with Jillian Barrick
 - KA meets with Town Administrator once a month. KA will report back any relevant information from these meetings.

New Business

- **Girl Scouts - Gold Award project.** Would like to raise awareness of invasives in her neighborhood. KA will follow up.

Adjourn: 9:28 pm