

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

March 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
x	Aaron Oliver (AO)	Member	aaron.j.oliver@gmail.com
absent	Susan Landau (SL)	Alternate	slandau.stc@gmail.com
absent	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 February 2021 Meeting Minutes

Unanimous Approval.

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

Michael Kurek - listening in

5. Arborist Report

- a. Bank Street trees
No update, still pending
- b. Awareness posters and water bags being planned for spring and fall planting of 2020.

February 2021

Trimming Program

The systematic pruning program was started by Moore's Tree Service.
The company expects to finish the contract by the end of March.

Spring Planting

Plans were finalized for spring planting. The Town is soliciting prices for the planting.
Work involves:

- Planting 30 trees at Burnham Park Pool Area by the children's playground;
- Trees are American dogwood, Eastern Redbud, Serviceberry and River Birch.
- Two additional trees were ordered for 179 Mills Street (was omitted from last fall's planting program).

Tree Crew

- The crew has finished their work in Gramby Park.
- A multi-lead ash tree was removed from Speedwell Park (tree was hanging over on Speedwell Ave).
- Tree removals were started in Burnham Park. Work progress is slower due to snow and mud season.

ACTION: RW to update quantity and types of trees list from 2020 tree planting. KA to send label document to PZ. PZ to print.

6. Resident Tree Issues

23 Maxwell Ct - ash tree to be removed
132 James Street - ash tree to be removed
Letters of removal sent by the Administration 3.15.21

7. Business District

- a. Headquarters plaza
KA received email from landscape architect working on both properties (HQ plaza and 1776 On the Green) to verify planting and planting strategy. They were double checking approval from STC.
- b. Tree wells on Cattano – parking authority – *Pending next flexipave project*
- c. flexipave 2021- *pending*
- d. biochar 2021 - *pending*

8. Invasive

- a. Ash removal - Park status included in February 2021 Forester's Report.

9. Partnerships

- a. Foote's Pond Wood Restoration Team- Susan
 1. A New York Botanical Garden trained and certified landscape designer has joined FoFPW and we are feeling very fortunate. Long term, she will draw up a Master Plan for the park, near term she is drawing a naturalistic design for plugs to go in near the dock this spring. This should enhance visitor experience and hopefully, function as public native plant displays that restore habitat. We will use this concept in the main James St meadow after the clay is removed.
 2. All the areas around the dock and on the pond side of the path as one approaches the dock were seeded with native seeds in late January and a light layer of straw was placed on top.
 3. The Morristown Garden Club continues to work toward adopting an area near the dock, adjacent to the school yard. I let them know that all proposals and species need to be approved by STC and I can be their liaison. We welcome them as another great partner.
 4. FoFPW asked the STC if we could be listed as a "Community Partner" to the Great Swamp Watershed Association to hand out native plants. We agreed that this is a wonderful partnership to have. We are looking to have the plant give away at the same time as our tree seedling give away.

b. Traction Line – RJ - *pending*

c. Tree Recovery – Arbor Day Foundation

Tree seedlings approved. April 22nd pick-up day - location and time to be confirmed
ACTION: MR volunteered to do pick-up - MR to confirm availability. Distribution planned for May 1.

d. Jersey Street Playground

ACTION: Plan for removal of burning bush and new tree plantings - coordinate with RW. Potential use for grant.

10. Grants

a. J. Porter Community Tree Project Award

Proposal: move forward with burning bush removal and new tree plantings at Jersey Street Playground. Additional work as part of this grant includes neighborhood awareness booklet regarding native plantings to support local eco-system, new bench and five (5) trees. Could also proceed with new trees in park if we don't pursue / are not awarded grant.

b. Rotary – sponsor program \$500

STC has received sponsorship - received by KA on 3/13/2021.

c. TD Bank Grant – STC was not awarded this grant. Although STC did win this two years in a row.

10. Awareness

a. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula

ACTION: PZ to send email and announcement, and set up a schedule. Email STC for thoughts.

b. Instagram awareness clips – *Pending*

c. Donation Letter - need a slight re-design with free graphic image.

ACTION: RB to investigate options.

11. Ordinance

a. Tree Well Ordinance - no update

12. Liaison Update

a. Council - no update

b. Zoning / Planning Board - no activity to report

c. BPA - Request for invasive assessment and plan from an expert. STC requests BPA follow the method of procedure for all communication with town.

MOTION: To allow Burnham Park Association to hire Mike Van Clef to do an invasive assessment and plan. Motion passes

RB: yes

BN: no

MR: yes

PZ: yes

DR: no

KA: no

AO: Yes

ACTION: KA needs to know date and time of visit, and should be provided copy of report directly. PZ to coordinate.

12. Parks Report

Lidgerwood Park:

What can DPW do to help? Will tag invasive shrubs for removal, prepare soil for native replacements.

MOTION: “Going Native” pamphlet to be part of the STC’s outreach and be re-printed and shared. Motion passes (unanimous)

Speedwell Park:

ACTION: PZ to reach out to Councilman Armington regarding Speedwell Park (County owned) and Elliot Street Park. Will mobilize strike force for spring maintenance - identify volunteers for other parks.

Harrison Park:

Will be a focus of Town Administration. Privately owned ash trees overhang playground in park. RW is assessing for limb removal.

Budd Park:

Walk through with Anthony Devizio, Town Engineer and RW. Discussed daylighting existing creek for flooding mitigation. Requested water study from Town Administrator. Fencing needs to be addressed.

ACTION: Soliciting planting design ideas for the field edges closest to Whole Foods - very wet area, perhaps rain garden.

Pocahontas Park

Waiting for weather to warm up to continue discussions with Councilwoman Cotten and schedule walk-throughs with local residents.

Andrew Hipolit offered to volunteer with his staff to do park clean up for ~4 hrs. STC recommends Pocahontas Park.

13. General Business

a. Deer protection

ACTION: RW to investigate deer protection options - mesh fencing roll vs. tubes.

b. Arbor Day - Saturday May 1

Mayoral planting at Burnham Park 10:15am (10:30 ceremony starts)

ACTION: KA to extend formal invitation to BPA

Tree saplings give away at 1:30 (distribution starts at 2pm) - may also have native plantings (SL)

Details related to procedure to be discussed at next meeting. Ideas regarding jotting down testimonials and soliciting volunteers.

c. Growth Award discussion - 12 points can be documented for 2021

New Business

a. Proposal: Shade Tree Commission logo wall to highlight donation tree plaques and STC awards. General agreement of good idea, generally leaning toward a “real tree” look.

Adjourn: 9:28 pm