

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

April 20th, 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
absent	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
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 March 2021 Meeting Minutes

Unanimous Approval.

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

No public attendees.

5. Arborist Report

- a. Arbor Day planting – trees go in 4.28
- b. Ann Street trees - **Pending**
- c. Speedwell trees along Headquarters – Kristin walked by the site and saw that the maples that had been approved for planting on Speedwell Ave in front of the plaza

were bound by ropes all the way up to the tree collar and burlap was still fully in tact. She reached out to the landscape architect, owner and James Campbell reminding them of our tree planting specs – ropes fully removed and burlap bag pulled down halfway. The landscape architect said that they would comply. Kristin will do another check before mid May.

d. tree gators – need to order about 20 more to have all trees including the Mayoral planting covered.

**Morristown
Forester’s Report
March 2021**

Miscellaneous

- Answered about 4 calls in response to the Ailanthus tree article that the STC submitted.
- Bark traced trees on South Street and on Elm.
- Looked at Harrison Park for tree inspection (as well as Harrison Ave).
- Looked at some of the systematic trimming.

Meetings

- Met with Jillian, Troy and Joe Curlo (monthly meeting).
- Met with JCP&L layout tech to discuss pole relocation on Corey Rd.
- Met with tree crew to discuss work in Speedwell Park.

Field Inspections

Address	Problem	Resolution	Status
19 Kenmuir	Identify ailanthus trees in b/y	None were found	Closed
77 Maple	Signpost in trunk	With the lean, least damage is to leave it. If that is not an option, then it would have to be cut as close to trunk as possible and wait for it to grow over. This will present a problem to future tree work	Pending
4 Elm	Fiberglass stake next to tree	Stake was cut out	Closed
34 Headley Pl	Signpost in tree trunk	Top of tree is rotted and decayed, tree will have to be removed (Norway maple 18 DBH)	Pending
44 Pine St	Wants a tree	Tree was recently removed, will have to wait another year to determine if enough roots deteriorated	Pending

132 James on Erskine	Multi-lead ash	Tree was added to removal list	Pending
23 Maxwell	Ash tree	Ash was added to removal list	Pending
179 Washington (on Colonial)	Check tree	Hollow pin oak, mushrooms at root flare-needs to be removed	Pending

Tree Crew Projects:

- Gramby Park: Completed
- Burnham Park: Phase I was completed (50% of the trees which need to be removed). Tree trimming was completed by the pool area.
- Pocahontas Park: Ash and a few ailanthus trees were removed and stumps ground down.
- Speedwell Park: most of the work has been completed.
- Harrison Playground: trimming has been completed.
- Trimming was completed on some trees which had major deadwood on Elm.
- Kleitman Park: 2 very dead ash trees along Hillside were removed, safety prune of 2 birches to be done and cabling an oak tree to be done.
- Elliott St Park: this will be the next major park to work in.

6. Resident Tree Issues

a. Cicada concern - Councilman Armington reached out to the STC with concern about the cicada emergence and the affect on young trees. Kristin assured him that cicadas will not irrevocably harm young trees, that cicadas usually go to larger trees. Also, the only way to protect the young trees is to net them which can cause more damage than cicadas. Rich concurred.

b. STC votes on letter to Administration about closed session – unanimous yes

7. Business District

a. Tree wells on Cattano – parking authority – ***Pending next flexipave project***

b. flexipave 2021- ***pending***

c. biochar 2021 - ***pending***

d. letter to Administration - vote

MOTION: STC requests the Town of Morristown to write a resolution opposing the recently proposed State of NJ legislation related to forest management across the state (SB-3547, 3548, 3549).

Approved unanimously.

8. Invasive

a. Ash removal - Park status (see Arborist Report)

9. Partnerships

a. Foote's Pond Wood reclamation project (SL)

MOTION: STC allows the Foote's Pond Wood reclamation project to create a pathway so visitors can experience new planned meadow without negatively impacting plantings. Approved unanimously.

b. Traction Line – RJ / KA

Work can be coordinated with Jacob Ford park work which is not current priority. Immediate neighbors are interested in participating in invasive removal (Ward 1 - Bob Iannaccone).

ACTION: KA and RB to create flyer / advertisement for targeted neighbors who may be interested in invasives work.

c. Tree Seedlings – Arbor Day Foundation

d. Great Swamp plant pick up (SL)

10. Grants

a. J. Porter Community Tree Project Award - ***Pending***

11. Awareness

a. Beautiful Tree contest (PZ)

ACTION: KA and PZ to coordinate publicity with Kristen Wedderburn.

b. Instagram awareness clips – ***Pending***

12. Liaison Update

a. Council - no update

b. Zoning / Planning Board - no activity to report

c. BPA - no update

12. Parks Report

13. General Business

a. Arbor Day - Saturday May 1

ACTION: Kristin to reach out to Andy Hipolit regarding Master Plan and his help in Pocahontas Park

New Business

Adjourn: 8:46pm