

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

May 18th, 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
absent	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
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 April 2021 Meeting Minutes

Unanimous Approval.

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

No public attendees.

5. Arborist Report

Arborist Report attached with discussion notes as follows:

Forester's Report

April 2021

Miscellaneous

- Located the placement of the trees for the Arbor Day Celebration at Burnham Park.
- Checked systematic trimming inspections, noted deficiencies.

Meetings

- Met with Jillian, Joe and Troy to discuss tree work.

Field Inspections

Address	Problem	Resolution	Status
122 Speedwell Ave	Plastic bag in tree	Bag blew away	Closed
32 Franklin St	Plastic bag in tree	Bag blew away	Closed
Behind 43 Budd St	Behind house in woods, people are concerned about it falling	Will re-check at the end of May, early June	Pending
24 Miller St	Signs bolted to tree	Will notify DPW to remove, tree has some trunk decay	Pending
145 Washington Ave	Wants a tree	Township and town of Morristown split the property. Will plant next planting season	Pending
14 Erskine	Behind house, in park	Red maple with trunk gouge from storm will need to be removed, leaning mulberry also	Pending
77-79 Chestnut St	Check tree	No Maple 26" with significant rot and decay in main leader needs to be removed	Pending

Tree Crew Projects:

- Burnham Park: Phase I was completed (50% of the trees which need to be removed). Tree trimming was completed by the pool area. Remainder of the removals will be scheduled as time allows.
- Kleitman Park: the oak tree that was to be cabled with trimmed and not cabled (due to poor structural support of wood from one of the two leads).
- Elliott St Park: tree work has started.
- Colonial and Washington: large hollow and decayed oak was removed.

- Tracy Park: dead pine will be removed and the climbing vine will be addressed.
 - a. Arbor Day
 - Planting at Burnham Park Pool complete, celebration took place on 5/1/2021
 - Tree Saplings give-away successful on 5/1/2021 at Town Parking Lot
 - Note for next year: print color photos / info sheet and laminate for handy tree information
 - Extra trees:
 - Pin Oaks (PZ has 14)
 - Hickory (PZ has ~20, John Landau has ~20)
 - b. Ann Street trees
 - Flexipave has been installed in tree wells. RW to close out project with James Campbell this week.
 - c. Speedwell trees along Headquarters
 - Tree installs are higher (~6") than preferred due to electric conduits in the ground. Impacts 4-5 trees.
 - d. Tree gators
 - Being watered by DPW
 - Elm Street (180 south on elm) trees - three need tree gators
ACTION: RW to discuss with Joe C. regarding tree gators on newer Elm trees
 - e. Bank Street
 - Several attempts to communicate new tree installations with owner have not be successful. Tree species and flexipave have not been approved and not in compliance with requirements. Includes four (4) trees, two (2) are likely dead
 - **ACTION:** KA to call James Campbell, check on escrow money. What is procedure to use escrow money to remediate the dead trees and flexipave non-conformance? Can escrow be used for alternative planting locations?
 - f. Elliot Street Park - Ash tree removals planned, many dangerous ones in wooded hillside
 - g. Burnham Park - final ash trees being removed

6. Resident Tree Issues

- a. Stump grinding request for recently removed tree on Tiffany Rd
ACTION: Rich to discuss with Town Administrator and follow up with resident. Removal of tree met town requirements. Morristown does not remediate stump.

7. Business District

- a. Flexipave 2021 & Tree wells on Cattano – parking authority -
 - Flexipave bid going out this week. Includes Cattano. Includes 3-4 remediation / feathering-in of wells. Some privately paid for, organized by town.
- b. biochar 2021 – **pending**
- c. Wells Fargo violation South Street trees
 - Young trees are being stressed due to scaffolding.

- Potential conflict between width of sidewalk requirements vs. tree locations.
- **ACTION:** KA to ask James Campbell about potential solutions. Replacement does not fully capture value of trees.

8. Invasive

- a. Ash removal - Park status
 - Elliot and Burnham in progress

9. Partnerships

- a. Foote's Pond Wood reclamation project - Susan
 - Created meadow and meadow pathway.
 - Ribbon cutting on 5/8, presented award to Susan & John Landau
- b. Traction Line – RJ / Kristin
 - **ACTION:** KA and RB to create neighbor flyers for invasive education and participation efforts.

10. Grants

- a. J. Porter Community Tree Project Award - **Pending**
Grant process closes June 5.

11. Awareness

- a. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula
ACTION: STC members to spread word about contest. PZ to provide email to share with social networks.
- b. Instagram awareness clips – **Pending**

12. Liaison Update

- a. Council
 - Tracey Park discussion (see parks report)
- b. Zoning
- c. Planning Board
 - Bank of America adding drive-thru, which would require removal of 5 private trees. Offering 5 replacement trees.
 - **ACTION:** KA to meet with project representatives regarding replacement value.
- d. BPA
 - BPA participated in Town clean-up on 5/15. Will continue park cleaning activities and awaiting Master Plan.

13. Parks Report

- Jersey Cottage Park
 - Existing shrubs will be removed. New native shrubs planned for fall, may be funded by J. Porter Grant if we receive.
- Tracey Park (corner of South Street and Madison Ave) - bad soil, may need to remediate soil. Would like to have more flowering plants, but hard to grow there.
 - **ACTION:** KA to reach out to Peck School regarding Tracey Park adoption.
 - **ACTION:** SM to contact neighboring business, such as Bekshire Hathway, about potential partnership.
- Lidgerwood Park
 - Invasive removal plan

ACTION: KA to make video of invasives to share with DPW, invasives to be removed and mulched, immediate neighbor to fund and care for new native bushes.

- Abbott Playground / Granby Park
 - Councilwoman Cotten asked about improvement plans
 - ash tree removal is complete
- ACTION:** KA & RM to investigate business / volunteer partnerships - nearby barber shop, market street mission collection center
- Clarify “Adopt A Park” sponsorships vs. “Resident Caretaker” teams
 - **ACTION:** KA to discuss differential of “adopt a park” vs. “friends of.. / stewards of.. park” with Town Administrator. Focus of resident team will be education and coordinating volunteer efforts with Town.

14. General Business

a. Legislation – Vote

- **MOTION:** STC recommends Town of Morristown attorney and Town Council approve legislation opposing current NJ state bills intended to enforce forest stewardship.

Approved unanimously.

b. Town Administrator Monthly Meeting Update

- Partnership with Great Swamp approved
- Jersey Cottage Park - grass clippings and forested area clean up. DPW will investigate and report back.
- Snow storage at Burnham Park - truck damage in protected wetland area
 - Cole Avenue is typical storage location, but was being used for food distribution during pandemic.
 - DPW made aware of wetlands protection - potential barrier being discussed to further protect
 - This should not be a recurring issue
- North Park Place - many stores are empty - may become a redevelopment zone if remain empty
- Budd Park water study - daylight existing creek - can it be opened up? Town Administrator reaching out to Andy Hipolit. May require large berm. Planting plan can be developed in future.
- State of Delaware banned sale of invasive species. Potential winter advocacy project for NJ version.
- Burnham Park invasive assessment - declined at this time. BPA can sponsor when it comes time based on Master Plan, town planning.
- Private tree removal permits: electrical inspector approves. \$10 fee.
 - no private tree removal ordinance
 - **ACTION:** KA will request that \$10 permit be given to STC. Request awareness campaign.
- DPW new staff training necessary regarding appropriate mulching of trees.
 - **ACTION:** RW to provide mulching guidance to DPW staff

c. Received 2019 Arbor Day and 2020 Arbor Day pins, waiting for 2019 Growth Award

d. Flexipave protection in business district:

ACTION: KA to send note to Town Clerk notifying businesses to keep tables / chairs off trees / flexipave.

New Business

NONE

Adjourn: 8:52pm