

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

June 15th, 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
X	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 May 2021 Meeting Minutes

Approved.

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

No public attendees.

5. Arborist Report

Forester's Report

May 2021

Miscellaneous

- Attended Arbor Day celebration.
- Put pictures together from Arbor Day.

Meetings

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

Field Inspections

Address	Problem	Resolution	Status
75 Early St	Check tree	Tree is budding, is ok	Closed
Behind 18 Budd	Dead trees	2 cedars in Budd St Park died, will be removed	Pending
54 Dogwood	Wanted tree removed or trimmed	LP 28 will be trimmed	Pending
10 Hill St	Dieback and lean on Norway maple	Will be removed this year	Pending
11 Budd St	Dead tree	Callery pear 14" died. The abutting owner at this location wanted the tree removed last year.	Pending
9 Lincoln St	Trim request	Trim Callery pear, to clear house	Pending

Tree Crew Projects:

- Burnham Park: Phase II was started with the removals of the additional identified trees.
 - Elliott St Park: tree work has started and continues.
 - Tracy Park: dead pine was removed.
- A. Bank Street - no further progress
- B. Dead tree replacements - North Park Place tree died (potentially salt exposure) - see notes in 2021 fall planting below.
- C. Gator installed on South Street protected tree which is currently under scaffolding.

6. Resident Tree Issues

- A. 2021 fall planting
- a. \$21,600 budget (52 trees) can be planned for:
 - i. Wards 2 & 4
 - ii. Business District (some trees have been lost)
 - iii. Morris Street / Ave (maybe 20 trees on south side of street from Blachley up to Green - avoid construction zones such as gas station and round-about)

- iv. Maple Ave (in front of Masons building, maybe 4 trees)
- v. Along Kings / Walgreens on South Street

ACTION: KA to review Ward 2 and 4 surveys to identify key locations for new trees.

ACTION: STC to make tree species recommendations for Morris Street by July meeting.

ACTION: RW to confirm pear tree health and well spacing available for new trees at Kings / Walgreens site.

For all of the above, final plan needs to be organized by end of July.

- b. Jersey Cottage Park - 16 plantings being planned (\$6,400 budgeted)
- B. Deer protection
ACTION: KA to identify four potential work days to install deer protection in late July or early August.

7. Business District

- A. Tree wells on Cattano – parking authority – ***Pending next flexipave project***
- B. flexipave 2021- ***pending***
- C. biochar 2021 – ***pending***
- D. tree well care

ACTION: weeds growing in flexipave, Elm Street to North Park.

RB: Washington

PZ: Whole Foods

KA: Elm to Teaching Room

ACTION: KA to split remaining (Teaching Room to North Park Place) between SL / DR / MR / AO.

- E. 6 Elm Street tree well
Background: planting in tree wells is not allowed by STC, but we approved letting the flowers stay for the year. We felt that the best way to handle it is to write an awareness letter regarding our policy so that they will not plant again next year.
ACTION: KA to draft letter to property owners for Jillian to review.
- F. bikes on trees
ACTION: KA to prepare protection of trees ordinance signage.
ACTION: PZ to reach out to Stefan Armington regarding bike racks along Speedwell.

8. Invasive

- A. Ash removal - Park status
 - a. Removal activities finishing at Burnham Park and Elliot Street Park
- B. Ailanthus Removal map
 - a. KA is coordinating with Town and Mike Van Clef.
 - b. RB is coordinating partnership with Morris County Parks / Traction Line.

9. Partnerships

- A. Foote's Pond Wood reclamation project – Susan (NOTE: detailed reports are available to the public upon request)
 - a. SL requested leaving as much dead wood as possible to enrich habitat.
 - b. Jillian Barrick gave permission for a small water pump to be used on the meadow in times of drought.

ACTION: SL to walk the park with RW when final planning for Ash removal activities.

ACTION: SL to coordinate tree sapling plantings with RW and other interested STC members.

- B. Traction Line – RB
 - a. RB is coordinating invasive removals with local residents along traction line. Also coordinating Ailanthus treatment.

10. Grants

- A. J. Porter Community Tree Project Award - **Pending**
- B. NJUCF Stewardship

ACTION: STC members to share thoughts on tree inventory process.

11. Awareness

- A. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula
 - a. Finalists: #1 - Weeping Cherry, #5 - Silver Oak, #7 -
ACTION: PZ to forward finalists to Town for Instagram posting and public voting
ACTION: PZ to email all participants: move #2 (Sassafras) to fall, and #4 (Black Oak) to winter. Encourage other participants to continue to submit their Beautiful Trees in subsequent seasons.

VOTING RESULTS

- 1 - 111111 (weeping cherry)
- 2 - 1111 (sassafras) - move to Fall
- 3 -
- 4 - 11 - move to Winter
- 5 - 111 (oak)
- 6 -
- 7 - 111
- 8 - 11

- B. Instagram awareness clips – **Pending**

12. Liaison Update

- A. Council ~ legislation status
- B. Zoning
- C. Planning Board
- D. BPA - no update

13. Parks Report

- A. Jersey Cottage Park - 16 trees, maybe 5 will be provided through grant.
- B. George Gramby Park - RB is planning invasive removal party

- C. Lidgerwood Park - KA / SL coordinating tiered process - invasive removal, cardboard and mulch, donor providing bottlebrush buckeye shrubs plantings, SL to assist with watering for 2 years.

ACTION: KA to request approval from Town Administrator. SL to motivate community / volunteers to assist with cardboard donations, moving mulch, taking ownership, etc.

14. General Business

- A. Meeting with Jillian Barrick - notes in related items above.
- B. CEUs

ACTION: All STC members that have not achieved a CEU, please prioritize!

New Business

- A. Hazlett Street new tree planting appreciation letter. Request for tree identification on the street.

ACTION: RW to generate tree list to share with resident.

- B. Pear trees - trimmings to be stayed for 3 years to allow for growth.

- C. Budd Street trees entwined with fencing.

ACTION: KA to discuss with the Town Administrator in July.

Adjourn: 9:07 pm