

## **Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC46) Meeting Minutes**

### **Monthly Meeting**

January 12, 2016

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

### **Members present:**

Kristin Ace, Chair

Karl Roettger

Michael Rockland

Deb Regan

Candy Beagles

John Harris

### **Members absent:**

Joe Torres

### **Guests:**

Rich Wolowic; Joe Bangiola and Paul Bangiola; and Pastora Vasquez and Geoffrey Gogan

### **Roll call**

1. **Statement of Compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)** made by Kristin at 7 pm.

2. **Minutes:** Kristin moved for a vote to accept the December 8, 2015, meeting minutes. Karl seconded. All approved. **Actions:** Kristen will send special November and December meeting minutes to the town. Karl will send October meeting minutes to the STC to vote on at the next meeting.

3. **Open Public Portion:** Joe Bangiola returned to give more information, as requested by the Commission, on his proposed Eagle Scout project at 94 Maple Avenue in front of Assumption Church. The church pastor does not want a tree planted in front of the church. Mr. Bangiola proposed that if the STC has no plan to put a tree in front of the church, he would like to go forward with his plan. His plan is to install hardscape, such as brick and/or pavers, and possibly a bench. Karl moved to not require a tree planted at the site. Deb seconded. All members voted yes; except Candy, who voted no. **Action:** Kristen will send email to Joe Bangiola formalizing the STC decision.

Pastora Vasquez, 5 Lake Road and Geoffrey Gogan, Architect, 8 King Street, requested removal of a tree in front of the house so that a driveway can be installed. Mr. Gogan advised that the BOA approved the driveway by resolution, subject to the STC approval of relocation and/or replacement of the tree. Kristen moved to allow removal, subject to the STC receiving compensation from Ms. Vasquez in the form of two 2½" to 3" caliper trees, the species to be selected and the actual trees to be approved by Rich Wolowic, and subject to Ms. Vasquez obtaining all necessary approvals from the relevant town entities. Karl seconded. All members

voted yes, except Kristin, who voted no. **Actions:** Kristin will send email Ms. Vasquez formalizing the STC decision. Rich will coordinate with the town engineer, pick the species, suggest locations to plant the trees and inform the STC.

4. **Selection of Vice Chair:** Kristen moved to nominate Joe Torres as Vice Chair. Karl seconded. All members voted yes. Since he is absent, Joe will have to accept at the next meeting.

5. **Selection of Secretary:** Kristen advised that the STC must designate someone for the position. Karl moved to nominate John as Secretary. Kristen seconded. All members voted yes. John accepted.

6. **Valuation and compensation of tree removal:** Karl discussed two methods to value a tree that is removed with the STC's permission. Karl moved to adopt the NJ Species Value Rating formula for establishing valuation of permitted tree removal. Kristen seconded. All members voted yes.

Karl discussed two compensation methods for a tree that is removed with the STC's permission. **Action:** Karl will get more information on if and how the STC can get access to the town fund dedicated to the purpose of public tree donation so that people removing trees with the STC's permission can provide monetary compensation, such as by check. Other members may identify issues with this method for discussion by emailing Joe.

7. **Volunteers for STC Projects:** The following members volunteered to work on the following projects:

**Tree City USA:** volunteer tabled

**Accomplishment Report:** Candy

**CEU/Core:** Deb

**Arbor Day:** Karl, John

**TD Grant:** Kristin, John and Candy

8. **Accomplishment Report:** Kristin discussed the Accomplishment Report, which had been distributed to all members. Kristen moved to adopt the Accomplishment Report. Karl seconded. All members voted yes.

9. **Increase number of meetings to twice per month:** Kristin discussed increasing the number of meetings to twice per month because there are important issues to address in the near future and two meetings per month will ensure that the STC is able to address all matters on the agenda. Karl moved to allow STC to vote at a meeting whether or not to extend that meeting past 8:30 pm so that the entire agenda for that meeting can be completed. Kristen seconded. All members voted yes.

10. **Special Meeting.** Kristen discussed the need for a special meeting to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer. Kristen moved to schedule a special meeting to address the Emerald Ash Borer. Deb seconded. All members voted yes; except Karl, who voted no. Kristen moved to hold the special meeting on February 23, 2016. Deb seconded. All members voted yes.

11. **Communication with Mayor/Town Council:** Tabled.

12. **Forester's Report:** Rich discussed gator bags. Spring planting will be discussed at the next meeting. Districts and wards were assigned so that members can identify locations for the spring planting.

13. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.