

Morristown Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 10, 2017

7pm – 8:30pm

Room 201/ Town Hall

1. Roll Call

In attendance:

- Kristin Ace, Chair
- Deborah Regan, Vice Chair
- John Mitchell, Secretary
- Michael Rockland, Member
- Richard Wolowicz, Town Arborist

2. Statement of compliance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)

Chair Kristin Ace cited compliance with the O.P.M.A.

3. Review of Minutes: December 2016

Motion to accept November minutes

Motion moved by: Michael Rockland

Motion seconded by: Deborah Regan

Votes

Kristin Ace	Yes
John Mitchell	Yes
Deborah Regan	Yes
David Rockland	Yes

Motion approved

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

No members of public were present at this meeting.

5. Business District rejuvenation discussion: Chair Kristin Ace

- a. Gingko tree in front of Aikou restaurant on South St: Problem with the gingko is that it would not have the same growth pattern as the other trees, which was the reason for the transplanting suggestion. It will be moved to a better spot in the spring

Vote: Moved by Kristin Ace, Seconded by Deborah Regan. All present voted yes (Ace, Regan, Rockland, Mitchell), motion passed

- b. FlexiPave color. The material and colors are somewhat controversial. Vote was not conducted on this item. Issues: The mayor is not enthusiastic about the current-color-

tested at the corner of Pine and South Streets. Jennifer Wehring of the Morristown partnership - likes the current color because it blends into the well and she can't see the difference between this and the mulch color in the wells next to the Flexipave. The company that makes the FlexiPave has alternate colors that will be shown to the Mayor and Jillian Barrick. - Jillian will reach out to Kristin regarding the Mayors decision.

6. Arborist Report

Rich Wolowicz, the town arborist, provided an update on several ongoing initiatives.

a. CSIP Grant

The Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant, from the NJ Forest Service, provides funding for 95 trees to be planted in town parks. They will be planted in the Spring.

b. Park tree inventory

- a. Inventory has been conducted already in 4 town parks: George Gramby Memorial Park, Woodhull, Jacob Ford and Clyde Potts.
- b. Inventory will continue in the Spring: Burnham Park will be next.
- c. Some dead trees will be topped off at 10-15 feet for wildlife habitat in Burnham Park
- d. At 15 Ford Avenue, redevelopment of existing building. Trees have been planted too low along the sidewalk and will be raised in the spring and planted with better soil at level.

7. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Training was presented by Rich Wolowicz to DPW/Engineering. Meeting went well; chemicals will be discussed in February.

At Modera44 (new complex on Prospect Street) trees along the street were poorly planted. Original contractor -will be approached for - amending – however, given the experience, Rich Wolowicz would prefer to be present when their contractor corrects the planting. In the meantime, R. Wolowicz will cut the burlap away from the root balls to avoid strangling the trees. The replanting needs to be done soon – the trees are at risk in their current situation. Kristin Ace will confirm with Jillian Barrick, Town Administrator - if Rich can do the digging to cut the burlap away from the root balls.

Tree planting in the priority wells this spring needs to be monitored by members of the commission.

8. Action updates

a. Protection of Trees Ordinance

Rich Wolowicz has received feedback from Anthony Devizio (DPW) and distributed this to the commission. Discussion/vote set for February.

b. Value of Trees Ordinance

Kristin Ace presented an update on the Value of Trees ordinance

Jillian Barrick, Town Administrator, has reviewed the text of this ordinance. Town Council President Armitage needs to review and approve. It is expected to go for a vote front of the council in February. It would be preferable if council members could review prior to the meeting; they require 48 hours' notice.

c. Emerald Ash Borer/mulch info flyer town handout

A flyer on Emerald Ash Borer and on the use of mulch around trees was prepared several months ago. It will be sent to every residence in Morristown. It may be possible to place it on the town Facebook page,

Kristin is seeking approval from Administration for 100 Mulch flyers will be purchased for a total of \$40.

Water bags for all new trees are to be put on the first week of April and be filled every two weeks until they come off in November for two years

Upcoming actions/takeaways

9. Speedwell Avenue

The area at the triangle of Spring Street and Speedwell Avenue, on the HQ Plaza side, as well as the frontage along the new CVS on the opposite side of Spring St could be enhanced with tree planting. HQ Plaza Northwest end, near Spring St., there are 5 large oak trees that are being choked out by the stones around them.

The commission - would like to provide a solution for the triangle at the tip of HQ plaza near Spring St.

Deb Regan is going to check with Jennifer Wehring of the Morristown Partnership on who the owners of these areas are so that the STC can contact them for possible partnership.

East Park

On East Park at the Methodist Church there is a tree growing into the grate; incorrectly planted grate needs removing now. Rich Wolowicz will check on this and make corrective suggestions as needed.

Adjourn time: Meeting ended at 8:17 PM.