

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

July 20th, 2021

7PM Zoom call, recorded

1. Roll Call

Present	Name	Role	email address
X	Kristin Ace (KA)	President	k-ace@townofmorristown.org
absent	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
X	Aaron Oliver (AO)	Member	aaron.j.oliver@gmail.com
X	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 June 2021 Meeting Minutes

Approved.

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

No public attendees.

5. Arborist Report

No report for July.

A. Bank Street – no further progress

ACTION: RW to speak with James Campbell, advise on tree species.

B. Dead tree replacements owed to the Town:

- a. Woodhall park replacements – one may be dying.
ACTION: RW to investigate (planted high) – can this tree be saved? Or pursue replacement.
- b. Other dead trees:
ACTION: KA to create list of tree locations and send to RW for confirmation / assessment.
- c. Signs fastened to town trees on Miller Street (near Budd Park) and Hazlett Street. Signage has been removed. (coordinated by Joe Curlo)
- C. Burlap bag – 16/18 Franklin Street
ACTION: RW verify material. Consider asking contractor to pick up tree in fall and cut out plastic burlap bag.
- D. Door-hanger watering guidelines
ACTION: RW and team to distribute.

6. Resident Tree Issues

- A. 2021 fall planting - \$28,000 budget, plan needs to be finalized by end of July
 - a. Jersey Cottage Park (16 trees = \$6,400; if we get grant 5 trees + bench will be covered)
 - b. Morris Ave (20 trees = \$8,000)
 - c. 42 remaining trees
 - i. pick two-three streets in Ward Two that need the most trees for our residential aspect.
 - ii. Ward 2 – 21 trees around Jersey Cottage Park neighborhood.
 - iii. Ward 4 – 21 trees
 - 1. Consider planting in front of Masons building, another 6 on Maple Ave. DeHart and Maple (near Wells Fargo parking lot)
 - 2. Miller Rd – residents have requested no trees.
 - 3. Investigate Perry and MacCulloch Ave
 - 4. Consider Budd Street neighborhood in two years – wait for park updates being planned next year
 - iv. Assessed tree wells adjacent to Kings (Ward One); tree pits need more time to break down the stumps that have been ground, suggest planting in 2022.
- B. Black gums – holding on planting new Black gums which may not prefer street planting locations.
- C. Future planting:
 - a. Assess Kings tree wells for next year planting
 - b. Send letters to the people who we would want to plant on their home property for 2023, now, to get an idea of where we stand.
- D. Deer protection
 - a. STC to target morning of Wednesday, August 4.
 - b. Granby Park: August 15 – Tree protection and invasives party to be planned.

7. Business District

- A. Flexipave bids – rejected again, prices are double expectations, trying to negotiate with bidders in next bid.
 - a. Tree wells on Cattano – parking authority – ***Pending next flexipave project***
 - b. flexipave 2021- ***pending***
- B. biochar 2021 – *pending tree well expansion and plantings (anticipate 38 wells)*
- C. tree well weeding – postponed due to summer heat

8. Invasive

- A. Ash removal - Park status
 - a. Removal activities have slowed due to summer storm emergencies. Will provide update in Arborist report.
 - b. Tree removal in parks – what is the priority?
- B. Ailanthus treatment update
 - a. Treatment occurred 7/13 and 7/15.
 - b. \$1,051.00 for treatment.
 - c. Treated ~90% of trees. Estimate 10% will survive and another treatment will be required next year. Joe Curlo and tree crew were informed of shell casings and intent of treatment. Kristin placed Ailanthus Tree treatment signs made by Engineering at each site.
- C. Tree in Town Hall driveway.
ACTION: RW to have tree removed.
- D. Town trees are being pruned in same area every year. Being over-pruned impacting canopy size. Need to educate tree crew to stop pruning.
ACTION: KA to investigate further with RW and Town Administrator.

9. Partnerships

- A. Foote's Pond Wood reclamation project - SL
 - a. Wherever soil is disturbed, throw in native seeds.
- B. Traction Line – RB
 - a. Confirmed Ailanthus were treated along Traction Line. Will continue on efforts and send updates.

10. Grants

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

11. Awareness

- A. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula
ACTION: PZ to email Kristen Wedderburn to follow up with summer contest announcement. Also request printing picture of winner with Spring 2021 Morristown Beautiful Tree Competition Winner!
- B. Instagram awareness clips – **Pending**

12. Liaison Update

- A. Council ~ legislation status – resolution to not allow clear cutting or forested burns annually was voted in unanimously
- B. Zoning
Properties are starting to pro-actively ask for STC review.
 - 79 Maple (dentist office) reviewed for natives and location of plantings (fencing and shading will limit growth potential). Waiting for updated plan.
 - 149 Washington wants to move forward with convenience store – reviewed for natives – lot requires 9 street trees, proposed zero so far. Waiting for updated plan.
ACTION: RB to re-send comments to James Campbell for next meeting.
- C. Planning Board
 - 126/136 South Street – concern on old-growth trees.
ACTION: next meeting on Thursday, 7/22. RB and KA to investigate potential impact of development on trees.

- Planning Board rejected application to split lot after he took down many trees in Ward 3.

D. BPA

- a. No update on Master Plan
- b. PZ to email Rich to follow up on tree health question.

13. Parks Report

- A. Jacobs Ford – ivy cloaked evergreens & small oak
 - a. **ACTION:** porcelain berries need to be cut back – RW to coordinate work with DPW / tree crew.
- B. Lidgerwood – poison ivy riddled birch
 - a. **ACTION:** DPW / Tree crew to cut back ivy, prune dead limbs.
- C. Jersey Cottage Park
 - a. Parties happening in small forested area. Residents requesting help. Invasive overgrowth is causing cave-like environment.
ACTION: KA to meet with town to remove invasives, SL to procure native seeds for replanting. KA to update Councilwoman Cotten on activities.
- D. George Gramby Park - RB is planning invasive removal party on August 15.

14. General Business

- A. August meeting rescheduled to 8/10 at 7pm.
- B. September 21 expected to be at Town Hall.

New Business

None

Adjourn: 8:41pm