

# **Shade Tree Commission of Morristown**

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

September 21st, 2021

7PM Zoom call, recorded

### **1. Roll Call**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>email address</b>
X	Kristin Ace (KA)	President	<a href="mailto:k-ace@townofmorristown.org">k-ace@townofmorristown.org</a>
X	Deb Regan (DR)	Vice President	<a href="mailto:dmreganstc@gmail.com">dmreganstc@gmail.com</a>
X	Paula Zimin (PZ)	Secretary	<a href="mailto:pz.stc.morristown@gmail.com">pz.stc.morristown@gmail.com</a>
X	Michael Rockland (MR)	Member	<a href="mailto:rockland@amerstudies.rutgers.edu">rockland@amerstudies.rutgers.edu</a>
absent	Robert Bell (RB)	Member	<a href="mailto:robert.j.bell.92@gmail.com">robert.j.bell.92@gmail.com</a>
X	Robert Norkin (RN)	Member	<a href="mailto:judyudi@yahoo.com">judyudi@yahoo.com</a>
X	Aaron Oliver (AO)	Member	<a href="mailto:aaron.j.oliver@gmail.com">aaron.j.oliver@gmail.com</a>
X	Susan Landau (SL)	Alternate	<a href="mailto:slandau.stc@gmail.com">slandau.stc@gmail.com</a>
X	Sandi Mayer (SM)	Town Council Liaison	<a href="mailto:s-mayer@townofmorristown.org">s-mayer@townofmorristown.org</a>
absent	Rich Wolowicz (RW)	Town Arborist	<a href="mailto:shadetree@townofmorristown.org">shadetree@townofmorristown.org</a>

### **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 August 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Approved.

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

No public attendees.

### **5. Arborist Report**

**Morristown Forester's Report**

**August 2021**

## Field Inspections

Address	Issue	Recommendation	Status
23 Budd St	Dead tree	Not dead, needs trim	Pending
7 Harding Rd	Dying tree	Need to confirm if on ROW	Pending
32 Conklin	Check tree	Outside of ROW	Closed
45 Overlook	Uprooted	Oak was removed, stump to grind	Pending
16 Franklin St	Ash tree question	On private property, no answer yet	Pending
Burnham Park	Check newish tree	Sweetgum 3" is dead	Closed
36 Colles	Low limbs	Sophora needs to be elevated	Pending
87 Washington St	Trim request	Oak was trimmed, cable wires need to have slack removed	Closed for now
2 Wetmore	Leaf spots on new tree	Looks like fungal leaf spots, tree should recover	Closed

## Planting

- Added additional addresses to complete list for fall planting.
- The contract was forwarded to Ralph to initiate the bidding process.

## Misc.

- Attended monthly update meeting with tree crew, DPW and Jillian
- Met at Jersey Ave Park with Joe, Joel and Kristin to discuss upcoming work.

## Systematic Pruning

- Potential areas are currently being surveyed to determine the number of trees and where the volume of requests are coming from.

## Tree Crew Activity Highlights for Month of August

- Removed trees overhanging Lidgerwood Park pumphouse
- Removed uprooted tree at 49 Overlook
- Repaired stubs on pine trees in Gramby Park
- Made dead white oak safe in Burnham Park natural area
- Removed large Ash at the south end of Burnham Park
- Removed extensive deadwood in tree on Cutler St
- Removed down hanging branches on Cutler St since crew was on the street
- Started to remove the vines from pine trees in Ford Hill Park

- A. Bank Street - still pending  
**ACTION:** KA to email James Campbell regarding status
- B. 7 Elm - tree is protected
- C. Sick/dead tree at Burnham Park - update in report
- D. Fall planting - Cottage and Jersey plantings, Maple Ave planned. Expect bids soon.
- E. systematic pruning - budget is separate from STC budget, \$60,000 budget.
  - a. Purpose of systematic pruning is to ensure trees are properly pruned every 5-6 years to avoid damage in future due to storms.
  - b. 400 trees can be pruned with this budget per year
  - c. This is the fourth year of systematic pruning. Arborist proposal deviates from initial intention of systematic pruning plan. Commission okay with deviation, but plan needs to be updated to ensure change is captured for future pruning cycles.
  - d. KA has been tracking systematic pruning locations over last three years. General agreement that Arborist can proceed with pruning as currently planned.  
**ACTION:** Future meetings to focus on future systematic pruning planning to ensure a 5 or 6-year cycle covers entirety of town and avoid over-pruning.
- F. General feedback on Arborist report
  - a. timing - please send at least 3 business days prior to meeting
  - b. context - please provide pictures, specific location of tree(s) being referenced.

## 6. Resident Tree Issues

- A. Deer protection
  - a. RJ, KA, and SL protected 30 new trees in Burnham Park.
- B. 60 Franklin Street
  - a. Private ash tree that was dead. Hung over public right-of-way. KA and RN notified town and visited owners. Has been removed.
- C. 21 Kenmuir Ave
  - a. Dead tree - weed-whacker damage. Resident will pay for a replacement tree.
- D. Kenmuir dying trees
  - a. salt, over-fertilizing, weed-whacker, still unknown why trees are dying?  
**ACTION:** PZ to start draft flyer on how to care for street trees. Input from commission welcome. Tree planting planned in 2022 - how to care for trees:
    - encourage mulch around trees
    - landscapers and weed-whackers
    - minimize salt
    - minimize chemicals.
    - shade tree core training materials?

## 7. Invasive

- A. Ash removal – tree crew Park status - focusing on Burnham Park. Status unknown.

## 8. Parks Report

- A. Jacob Ford – invasive vine removal from pine trees in process.
- B. Lidgerwood
  - a. invasive remediation section in process. invasives removed and new plantings planned.
  - b. SM noted flood mitigation work, improved drainage planned.  
**ACTION:** KA / SM to verify with town administration regarding planned work and potential impact on work in Lidgerwood.
  - c. Lidgerwood gazebo planned - Rotary club donation. Any additional funding for replantings after invasives are gone? AO mentioned it to Rotary is open to ideas - need details.

**ACTION:** SL to draw up planting plans and present to Rotary to see if the group would be willing to fund any new plantings, or develop invasive strike force. Develop "Community Days" every 3-4 months. SL to write up proposal.

- d. MARK YOUR CALENDARS - May 22nd Rotary Pavilion Ribbon Cutting
- C. Jersey Cottage Park
  - a. removing invasives, remove invasives in forest area, opening up trees for future growth.
  - b. seeds for forested area to be thrown down - pine needles to be added.
  - c. J. Porter Community Tree Project Award - Grant for \$2,500 awarded.  
**ACTION:** KA to take "Before" photos in advance of removal work.
- D. Forested areas of Morristown
  - a. Each Commissioner is asked to pick a park to sponsor / steward
  - b. KA to attend October Town Council meeting to call the Council to action to pay attention to parks
    - i. issues with vine smothering, issues with invasives - outside of maintained areas, forested areas.
    - ii. Requested Action: Ask for trained volunteers to help mitigate vines on trees and address invasives to save our urban forest areas surrounding our parks.

## **9. Business District**

- A. Parking Lot Ordinance
  - a. RB / KA have been advocating an ordinance requiring trees for every ~5 parking spots. Final details being decided with the Town.
- B. Hampshire Real Estate on Maple
  - a. stone in median strip - heats up ground and root system. Request to remove the stone around the trees and replace with mulch.  
**ACTION:** KA to follow up with Hampshire Real Estate about mulch installation.
- C. Flexipave to include tree wells on Cattano and Morris St.
  - a. Parking authority to reimburse flexipave cost back to Town.
  - b. contract awarded to Midwest Construction, \$20,000 + \$27,650 (tree well widening and flexipave)  
**ACTION:** KA and SM to confirm scope of flexipave - should include 43-47 tree wells
- D. biochar 2021 – planned for Morris Street - pushed to next year.
  - a. Town Engineer opening up wells to be 4'x8' along Morris Street - see above.

## **10. Partnerships**

- A. Foote's Pond Wood reclamation project
  - a. Partnership with Thomas Jefferson School and science classes
  - b. NJ Invasives Conference

## **11. Grants**

- A. J. Porter Community Tree Project Award – Awarded \$2,500
  - a. adding 17 tree to Jersey Cottage park
  - b. will be awarded to STC at Annual Conference dinner
    - i. October 21, 2021, Cherry Hill, 6pm cocktails, 7pm dinner
- B. NJUCF Stewardship - Pending (tentatively approved - finalizing grant amount)
  - a. this grant will pay for a new tree inventory for street and parks/Tree Plotter program for Town use and ultimately for tree crew to have tablets in the field to record their work

## **12. Awareness**

- A. Beautiful Tree contest – Paula  
Top Three Finalists
  - # 2
  - # 4
  - # 6
- B. Instagram awareness clips – Pending
- C. Fall Festival - October 3rd, 12pm - 5pm
  - a. 11:30am - booth set-up
  - b. scheduling teams:
    - i. Kristin & Paula: Set-up: 11:30am - 2pm
      - 1. bring dolly & educational materials
        - a. Spotted Lantern Fly
        - b. Ailanthus tree
        - c. Tree issues
        - d. Tree requests
        - e. mulch volcanos
    - ii. Deb (& Kristin): 2pm-3pm
    - iii. Susan & Aaron: 3pm-4pm
    - iv. Susan & Bob: 4pm-5pm
- D. End of year flyer  
**ACTION:** KA to send two ideas to STC for consideration.

## **13. Liaison Update**

- A. Council
  - a. Flexipave ordinance cannot proceed. Town cannot hold business owners responsible for damage to flexipave. Alternative to be an agreement with Morristown Partnership for awareness to business owners of value and expense of maintenance of flexipave.  
**ACTION:** KA / SM investigate other actions that can be taken to protect flexipave and fine overt damage.
- B. Zoning - no update
- C. Planning Board - no update
- D. Burnham Park Association
  - a. Master Plan - no update

## **14. General Business**

- A. Focus group for Landscape Scale Restoration Grant - tabled to October meeting
- B. Mulch for town trees - tabled to October meeting

## **15. New Business**

none

**Adjourn:** 9:37pm