

Morristown Shade Tree Commission (STC46) Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting

April 12, 2016

7:00 pm meeting, Room 201

Morristown Town Hall

Members present:

Kristin Ace, Chair

Karl Roettger

Candy Beagles

Deb Regan

Michael Rockland (arrived after meeting started)

Members absent:

John Harris

Guests:

Rich Wolowicz

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 March 8, 2016, meeting minutes. Karl seconded. All approved (Michael absent).
3. **Open Public Portion:** No public in attendance.
4. **Quorum:** Kristin made a motion to change the quorum from 4 STC members to 3 STC members. Karl seconded. All members voted yes (Michael absent).
5. **Arborist/ Forester's Report:** Rich discussed Spring planting and last year's contractor problems, which the Administration is addressing. The Spring planting will be included in the Fall planting. Kristin discussed creating a plan for planting trees, where possible, along South Street, Elm, Morris and Speedwell. Various STC members discussed issues with trees in several locations. **Action:** STC members will do research on how many wells, what their sizes are and how many dead trees are on these streets. STC members volunteered to conduct the research: Michael - Elm Street to the old Swiss Chalet; Deb - South Street between Elm and the Courthouse; Kristin - Morris Street; Karl - Speedwell. Kristin moved to have a special STC meeting on May 17 to discuss Fall 2016 planting. Karl seconded. All members voted yes, except Karl who voted no.
6. **Arbor Day:** Karl discussed the program for April 30th. Discussion about the tree planting at 10 am; the list of invitees; reaching out to the press for newspaper coverage; and the press

release written by John. Rich and Karl discussed the actual tree planting. **Action:** By the end of the week all STC members should email to John and cc Karl changes to the press release. STC members should be on site by 9:45 am for Arbor Day.

7. **Vote on tree removals for a parking lot at Coal and Martin Luther King roads:** STC discussed removal of trees. Vote tabled. **Action:** Kristin will ask that the trees requested to be removed be tagged so that STC can accurately identify the trees that need to be voted on.

8. **Action Updates:** Rich discussed the draft Policy for Protecting Trees During Construction. **Action:** STC members will send comments to Rich to prepare to vote at the next meeting.

9. **DEP grant update:** Rich discussed the grant to plant trees in several parks, such as Jacob Ford and Coal Avenue.

10. **CEU/Core update:** Deb discussed Core training on April 23, 2016.

11. **TD Green Grant:** Kristin discussed forming a STC group to prepare TD Green Grant. **Action:** Kristin will gather information and send STC members bullet points on the grant application.

12. **Meeting with the Mayor:** Kristin will meet with the Mayor on Thursday to discuss tree well remediation with porous pavement and bio-char, as appropriate; enlarging tree wells as much as possible; the need to fill 3 STC member vacancies; and the Miller Road and Maple Road residential construction sites whose violation of the town protection of tree ordinance has resulted in damage to many trees.

13. **Arbor Day Proclamation:** At 7:25 pm, STC attended the Town Council Meeting to receive the Arbor Day Proclamation from the Mayor.

14. **Tree gators filled by residents:** Discussed asking neighbors to fill gator bags of newly planted trees. Kristin moved to allow residents to fill gator bags. Deb seconded. All members voted yes. **Action:** Kristin will create door cartoon to announce the new tree to the residents and to encourage residents to fill the gator bags.

15. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.