

Shade Tree Commission of Morristown

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

Meeting Minutes

August 10th, 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
absent	Paula Zimin (PZ)	Secretary	pz.stc.morristown@gmail.com
absent	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
absent	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 July 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 – no further progress
ACTION: RW to speak with James Campbell, advise on tree species.

- b. Woodhall park replacements – Rich feels that these will come back
- c. Possible dead trees reported by Councilman Armington – Rich found only 2 dead and the rest just need a trim
- d. Burlap bag – 16/18 Franklin Street
Bag is a weed suppression bag
ACTION: Kristin to cut out and remove as much as possible.
- e. Alice Cutler asked to have her tree trimmed so it will no longer hit her car as she pulls into her driveway
ACTION: Rich to put it on trim list

6. Resident Tree Issues

- A. 2021 fall planting –
 - a. \$30,000 available for planting.
 - b. STC to remove Morris from planting schedule until M Station work is complete so that we avoid any possible tree damage
 - c. Add more trees to 2nd Ward around Jersey Cottage Park area and more to Ward 4
ACTION: Rich and Kristin to plan out where the 30ish trees will go
- B. 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 – Going to hold off on that until we get closer to that specific planting schedule
- C. Deer protection
 - a. Wednesday, August 4 the STC protected Lidgerwood, Woodhull, Jacob Ford.
ACTION
Still need to do Burnham Park including the 30 new trees from Arbor Day
 - b. Granby Park: August 15 – KA & RJB will protect Gramby trees the day of the invasive removal event

7. Business District

- A. Flexipave
 - 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. Elm Street tree protection – Kristin saw a tree on Elm being affected by construction of the old Morristown Deli and was not properly protected. She reached out to Jillian Barrick who enforced the Protection Of Trees ordinance and the crew erected a protection box for the tree.

8. Invasive

- A. Ash removal - Park status
 - a. Tree crew still bouncing around. STC needs a priority list and systematic plan of action.
ACTION: Kristin to meet with Rich and Jillian to discuss
- B. Ailanthus treatment update
- C. Tree in Town Hall driveway.
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. Everything is going well. Flowers blooming. Wildflower field roped off until the turtle eggs hatch. Looking to buy a bench and working with Town Administration. Would like metal poles and rope to be placed along the wildflower area near the sidewalk to keep the flowers from falling over onto the walkway and where the grass is mowed.
ACTION:
Susan to reach out to Jillian
- B. Traction Line – RB

10. Grants

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

11. Awareness

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

12. Liaison Update

- A. Council ~
 - Sandi wrote an ordinance that would hold the business district responsible for replacing flexipave in front of their businesses if it becomes damaged.
 - **ACTION:** Sandi to reach out to Jillian to see when the Master Plan will be shown
- 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 send comments to James Campbell for next meeting.
- C. Planning Board
 - 126/136 South Street – concern on old-growth trees.
Rich looked at small forest and determined that most were Norway Maple and junk trees covered with massive vine and that it would not be ok to replace
- D. BPA
 - a. 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 - **PENDING**
- B. Lidgerwood – poison ivy riddled birch
Tree was pruned and de-vined
- C. Jersey Cottage Park
 - a. Parties happening in small forested area. Residents requesting help. Invasive overgrowth is causing cave-like environment.
KA and Rich met with Joe Curlo and Joel Rutkowski to discuss how best to remove invasives. The Park itself will be an ongoing process of saving what we can from invasive vines. Joe will email KA when the work will begin.
- D. George Gramby Park - RB is planning invasive removal party on August 15 at 1:00PM.

IDEAS:

- a. reach out to Landworks Landscaping to see if they want to volunteer hours for tax donation
- b. reach out to WRWAC & MEC to see about partnering in the spring for thrice yearly knotweed cutting

ACTION: RJ to bring table & Kristin to bring STC tablecloth/info flyers

14. General Business

- A. September 21 expected to be at Town Hall.

New Business

Fall Festival October 3rd 11-4

ACTIONS:

Kristin reach out to Greer regarding parking lot ordinance

Kristin to reach out to Lori Jensen regarding sending us SLF egg sack scraping cards

Susan to create a SLF circle trap for fall festival

None

Adjourn: 8:30pm