

Date: June 16th, 2020

7 pm

Zoom Virtual meeting

1. Roll Call:

In attendance

- Kristin Ace: Chair/Secretary
- Susan Landau
- Robert Norkin
- Deb Regan: Vice Chair
- Rich Wolowicz: Arborist
- Sandi Mayer – Council Liaison

Absent

- Michael Rockland

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

3. Review of Minutes

February minutes approved

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

Residents:

Steve Pylypchuk

Township resident:

Lynn Seibert

Both parties were in attendance to support the chemical injections to the Hazlett Street Ash tree that was discussed with the Mayor, STC, Town Arborist, Administration and a group of residents from the 3rd ward in January.

5. Arborist Report

a. Tree wells on Cattano – Parking Authority - pending

The Parking Authority has to replace the flexipave on the tree wells that they removed during sidewalk work but, have not had the opportunity to do so yet. Kristin asked Anthony Devizio, town engineer, if he felt the best way to have it done was to have the wells completed during our next round of flexipave and have the Parking Authority reimburse the Town. It will be a less expensive way for the Parking Authority to handle the replacement. Anthony approved the idea.

b. CFMP

The Community Forestry Management Plan for 2020-2025 was approved by the Town. The town will receive the last half of the \$3000.00 grant money once all the paperwork is complete – the expectation is for the end of July.

- c. Removed tree on Speedwell Avenue
Rich Wolowicz and Jillian Barrick searched to find who removed a tree on Speedwell near Century 21, but, came up with nothing. The Town will have to replace the tree and the flexipave with our own money.
- d. JCP&L
Rich Wolowicz had several phone conversations with JCP&L regarding trees that they were not approved to take down in an area of Morristown. The trees are massive oaks and do not pose a threat to the wires. JCP&L does not agree with Rich Wolowicz's professional opinion. There will be an onsite meeting with Rich, Jillian Barrick and JCP&L when the Town opens up for more social distancing allowances.
- e. Tree species on Speedwell
The STC will come up with tree species ideas for the fall planting of the Speedwell streetscape for Rich to assess.

6. Resident tree issues

- a. 47 Lake Road – illegal tree removal – *resident still has not placed a crabapple in the space allocated by the STC.*

ACTION:

Kristin will reach out to Jillian to see if the resident would like the STC plant the tree during our fall planting and send Morristown a check for the work.

- b. Tree destruction on Grant
Three trees had man made holes drilled into them at the base. Rich went out to inspect but does not know if anything was poured into the holes to kill the tree. Jillian check with the Police to see if there was any evidence from street cameras, but, none came up. Now we have to wait and see if the trees live.
- c. Tree well damage on South
Kristin drove by the Vail Mansion and saw that a huge truck had run over the tree well in front of the patio that was having work done by the AAA All Seasons Maintenance company. The Flexipave had split and was lifted from the sidewalk. Kristin Ace called the police and a report was filed: #14100. Kristin then reached out to Jillian Barrick who is now in contact with the Vail Mansion management company to have the flexipave replaced.

7. EAB

Ash Tree Removal

- a. Hazlett Street
January 29th, 630pm, Senior Center, Town Hall - 3rd Ward residents, Councilman Armington & Burnham Park Association called for a meeting with Mayor Dougherty to prevent the removal of a large Ash tree on Hazlett Street and the three "historic" trees in Burnham Park. Also in attendance were Jillian Barrick, Kristin Ace, and Rich Wolowicz. The residents concern about Hazlet was that there are no other trees on the

street and removing the tree would leave the street bare of shade and cause flooding because the tree sits in a water basin. The group also wanted the trees in Burnham Park treated due to their supposed historical status. Mayor Dougherty wanted to wait until to decide until the trees all leafed out in the spring where then Rich Wolowicz will make a report on all the trees health and true age.

June - Rich Wolowicz sent his report to Mayor Dougherty, Jillian Barrick and the STC. The Mayor approved the treatment of the tree with the TreeAzin (Neem) product. The chemical is the “organic” treatment with the least toxicity. The tree will then be evaluated for the next two years to watch for decline. After two years, the decision to retreat will be addressed. This gives the new trees to be planted in the fall two years to establish, create a new canopy and handle the water that is created by the basin.

b. Park Ash removal

The Tree Crew has taken the opportunity of little to no traffic due to the shutdown of COVID 19 to prune some normally heavy traffic areas. They will move into the parks in mid to late June to begin Ash removal. Rich feels that it will be a two year process.

c. Burnham Park “historic” Ash

PENDING

Kristin posed to the group that the Burnham Park Association and the STC were possibly no longer in alignment due to the BPA’s advocating for treatment of the Ash. There was also a concern of the lack of communication or clarity on how the trees planted by the BPA were being cared for. Two of the three trees planted last year by the BPA in Burnham Park were failing. The Shade Tree Commission concurred that the BPA needs to comply with the requirements of any group or resident who asks to plant trees/shrubs in the town right of way. A better vetting system with clear guidelines will be developed moving forward.

8. Partnerships

a. Footes Pond Strike Team

Susan gave a comprehensive report on de-vining of trees, creating a wildflower meadow, planting native shrubs and native flower plugs in Footes Pond. Footes Pond Strike Team reports are available to the public upon request.

b. Edgewood and Crestwood

The STC voted unanimously to approve of planting 5 American Holly trees at the Crestwood dead end. Jersey Gardens Landscaping will amend the site by removing invasive vines, burning bush, multiflora rose. The site will be evened out, new soil brought in, trees planted and mulch added. The STC will provide tree gators and either the Town or Rich Wolowicz will attend to the watering. The plan prevents dumping on the site and prevents people from using the area as a cut through and trespassing on resident’s property. These were the major concerns of the neighbors.

Councilwoman Mayer also noted that there will be no dogwoods planted on Dogwood Lane as was requested by a resident in the area. The STC concurred. The area below the dead end on Dogwood Lane needs massive remediation before the STC would approve of a Dogwood tree planting. The STC agreed that the site would need a true landscaping plan, and commitment from a group to pay for and care for the area. That site is separate from the Crestwood site and not something that can be attended to at this time.

c. HQ Plaza Renovation

Kristin gave Brian McLoughlin & Christine Rothermel the replacement requests of the STC and Rich Wolowicz and they were all accepted and approved.

*replace the Manhattan Euonymus as it is native to Japan with an Inkberry Holly - Ilex glabra

*replace the 7 Honey Locust with Blackgum

* replace the Calamagrostis KF with Panicum virgatum ‘Shenandoah’ a native ornamental grass

HQ Plaza approved the changes requested by the STC

d. M Station

Kristin met with Frank Vitolo and Mr. Allen on 2.10.20 to go over the planting plan for M Station. Rich Wolowicz and the STC have asked for these changes to be made

*change the tree species from Honey Locust to any of the below and also do not plant a monoculture. M Station proposed 35 Honey Locust along Morris, Spring St and Spring Place. We asked that they mix up the species, whether it be in groupings or every other of two species. We asked if they could plant alternately rather than straight across from one another to give the canopies room to spread

*little leaf linden

*red maple

*black gum

*yellowwood

*disease resistant elm

We asked to have the “China Girl” Holly bush be replaced by a native Holly.

The M Station landscape architects approved the STC changes and added more diversity to the tree landscape design and replaced the proposed 35 Honey Locust. Rich asked that the two large Honey Locust be saved if at all possible.

e. 171-175 Morris Ave

Dave Lustberg of Arterial Streets

Kristin, Susan and Rich reviewed the planting plan and asked for these amendments:

*replace the Boxwood with Inkberry or a native Holly – The boxwood smell terrible in the Spring. There is a fungus that has spread throughout England and now is sweeping through the USA that is killing most genus of boxwood

- *replace the two Ginkgo's with Columnar Sargent Cherry or Fastigate Goldenraintree – there is no definite way to ensure that we won't get a female Ginkgo whose fruit is messy and noxious
- *we wondered if there was a native grass replacement for the carex grass

Dave accepted the STC requests and is implanting them into the plan

f. Speedwell redevelopment Park

Deb Regan attended a Council meeting in February where the Speedwell Park was discussed. She reported what she had learned. Since that time, a meeting was held with all Morristown entities to review the proposed park plan. Kristin shared what she learned with the STC.

ACTION:

Kristin will send the proposed plans to the STC

9. Arbor Day

Arbor Day was cancelled across the country due to COVID 19

10. Awareness

- a. Tree Identification book
Posted to the STC page on the Town website
- b. "What does the STC do" article was published by Morristown Green.com. Sandi had the idea to make copies of this article to hand out at the Fall Festival (if not this year, then for future years). It was also suggested to add the Tree Identification Book link to the bottom of the article
- c. Ivy on tree letter
Bob Norkin will create an awareness article that focuses only on the dangers of ivy on trees
- d. Mulch at Vail Mansion
A resident reached out to Rich saying that volcano mulching was happening at Vail Mansion and also at Lidgerwood Park. She wanted to know how to approach educating them against this practice. Rich assessed the area and found no volcanoes in Lidgerwood Park; Kristin reached out to the resident and let them know the STC would amend it. We also thanked her for her awareness!

11. Grants

- a. Green Communities Grant – CFMP – complete - see above

12. Ordinance

- a. **Protection of Tree – Pending**

13. Biochar/Flexipave 2020

ACTION:

Biochar was added to 61 wells.

14. Council Liaison Update

15. General Business

*Historic Salem Oak seedling

Postponed due to COVID 19

*Ward 3

Paula asked questions to clarify the information needed for her ward

*Core Training

Postponed for COVID 19 – State is working on a possible virtual training for the fall

*Invasive Species Training

July 18th, 10-12, must be at the Alexander Hamilton parking lot by 9:45

*What is a historic tree

STC will research and discuss what our definition of a historic tree will be

New Business:

PENDING

The STC would like to see trees in the courtyard of the new parking lot proposed by the Parking Authority for the space behind the Post Office.

Adjourn 9:30pm