

Shade Tree Commission

Minutes – December 13, 2010

Present: George Fromm, Dorothy Rasmussen, Lauren Rabinowitz, Tracey Gelber

Meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by George and seconded by Lauren

- November 2010 meeting minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted on the website.
- Congratulations were expressed to Dorothy for her election to Borough Council and her selection as Shade Tree Commission Liaison. Sheri-Rose Rubin will be leaving us as liaison and it was noted she will be missed!
- Kathy Dopart had resigned her seat on the Shade Tree Commission, she will be advised by George to send a letter to the Mayor to officially resign.
- George reminded the group that elections will be held at the January Meeting for new officers to the commission.
- In December 2010, Borough Council approved the addition of two members to the Shade Tree Commission, bringing the total to seven members. In addition, Dorothy and Kathy's seats need to be filled. Potential new members to the commission have been identified and will be encouraged to complete the application form on line at Metuchen.org to ensure they can be approved and appointed at the Jan 3, 2011 Borough Council Meeting.
- Shade Tree USA status must be updated for 2011, George gave Lauren the paperwork and Lauren will work with members to gather the information she needs to complete the application and keep Metuchen's Shade Tree USA status intact. She noted she will need the Arbor Day Proclamation from April 2010.
- Budget Plan for 2011 – Questions arose regarding the process for developing and presenting the request for a Shade Tree budget for 2011? George to work with Becky at Borough Hall to confirm process. George will also work with Becky to determine where Shade Tree funds from developers and residents are deposited, who manages the account and how much money is there.
- Not for Profit Status –Lauren will check with the Environmental Commission regarding how they applied for and gained "not for profit" status, which allows them to fund-raise, etc. The Shade Tree Commission will then work with the Borough to determine if this is a possibility for Shade Tree.

- Spring Planting Bid – We will begin putting together our spring planting bid for 2011. Current plans are for one major planting this year. Efforts will be focused on the Spring planting for 2011, it has been decided, that due to budget restraints, there will most likely not be a Fall planting in 2011. The below have been identified as areas in which trees will be planted.
 - 10-15 homeowner requests for trees
 - 10 young trees lost during last summer
 - Pockets on Essex and Amboy
 - Orchard St.
- Arbor Day 2011 plans were mentioned. Tracey will begin putting some ideas together for the group's approval, including possible an art or poetry contest within the Metuchen schools.

Meeting was called to close at 7:54PM by Dorothy and seconded by Tracey.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2011 @ 7:00PM