

# Shade Tree Minutes

February 8, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by George Fromm. Present were Sheri-Rose, Lauren, Dorothy, George, Tracy.

- Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- We discussed starting a blog and linking it to the boro website. It seems like a good way to get community involvement and opinions about tree issues. Lauren will spearhead this project. She will also be in charge of Tree City USA application. We need this designation to be eligible for grants.
- Budget for this year will be approximately \$20,000. This will be used to replace trees, attend continuing education as required by state statute and send new members for core training. We will co-ordinate with DPW in removing trees and adding trees to Amboy Avenue and Main Street. Essex Avenue and Central Avenue will be done at a later time. We have found that massive planting in one target area make an impact rather than planting at random sites throughout Metuchen.
- The planning department has a list of how much is owed to us from contractors who need to replace trees removed during their construction. Sheri-rose will find out how to access that money.
- We will look into finding grants to augment our budget so we can continue to replace and maintain trees.
- There will be a core training in April, we will see if the new members can attend that one instead of the one in October.

- We will be presenting the Tree Inventory results to the Borough Council probably in the next few months so they can see how helpful it will be to both the Commission and DPW.
- Middlesex Greenway will be handled by Middlesex County and we will see what kind of input the Shade Tree Commission will have concerning the area that goes through Metuchen. The Environmental Commission is already involved and we can get information from them concerning what role we can play.

A motion to adjourn was made by George at 7:40 pm and seconded by Lauren.