



METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

Minutes: April 16, 2012

Present: Tracey Gelber, Cher Krumins-Beens, Linnae Bulun, Frank Ferrera, Maggie Manza, Ushantha Govender, and Dorothy Rasmussen

Meeting Called to Order: 7:02PM by Tracey Gelber, seconded, by Frank Ferrera

Review of last minutes – No Edits. Approved 1st by Frank and 2nd by Cher

Bill Boerth meeting with Tracey – Did not get email address only got contact link from Borough website. Dorothy will follow-up to change from contact form to real email address.

Arbor Day – Is all set. Kids are aware. April 27 at 2PM. STC members will attend. Tree location still TBD. But will work with custodians to plant. Library board up and created.

Borough Hall Tree Plaque program – **Plaque** has been handed over to city to be placed in Borough Hall. Donations have been deposited to accounts.

Additional Finances – Three additional checks were added to our funds this past month.

Homeowner Request Plan – For 2012 Borough money will go to Main through ways, all donations plus the developer fund will go to plant homeowner request. Tracey will develop final tracking platform so can provide tree on first come first serve basis. Tracey will look into former request from 181 Center (Danny) for placement on list.

99 Orchard replanting request – Tracey follow-up via an email that informed resident that STC is unable to resolve issue.

STC Flyer program - Cher & George were unable to meet-up will follow-up in May

Mayor Report – No new updates.

Tree Inventory – Ushantha has developed a tracking sheet for “walk around”. When do walk around need to remember the view is an aerial view only so need large landmarks. April 22 & April 29 @ 10AM walk about at Ushantha House – 59 Hoaxley. Tracey will follow-up on renewal fee for access to inventory system.

Metuchen High School Cultural Club – Frank sent email but did not get. George got a plan but still owing a recommendation list.

Government Updates - Tracey unable to call Railroads and Middlesex Company to find point of contact this past month. She will revisit in May.

Replacement Regulations – Update on ability to add a law into the book regarding development projects that are jeopardizing a tree’s future but not immediately. Maggie researched other town laws and discovered that they include two year bonds into development projects. We can review Westfield code to use as example and need to review with Chris the following:

- How we enforce a permit system for removal/damage of trees?
- What needs to be done to develop process that can be implemented, and who is responsible for permit? (Permit should include approvals by STC, DPW, Zoning, etc.)
- First step is to get Bill on board and give permission to develop further

Misc. Concerns:

- **59 Upland** – will give permission to cut down tree destroying house foundation but will be homeowner responsibility to replace value of trees to town. STC will request that Mayor and Fred Hall sign letter. George to write –up for their review. Tracey to sign. Tracey signed letter and sent to resident.
- **Ethel Place** – Oil tank leak fix will jeopardize large tree on property. STC will give contractor permission to remove tree but will need two new trees to the town as replacement value. Again letter to resident/contractor to have 3 signatures (STC, Mayor & Fred Hall). – Letter went out but no follow-up has been received. PENDING need to follow-up with George.

Next Meeting: May 14th @ 7PM

Meeting Adjourned: 7:51 by Frank Ferrera and seconded by Ushantha Govender