



METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

Minutes: December 10, 2012

Present: Tracey Gelber, George Fromm, Cher Krumins-Beens, Ushantha Govender, Franklin Ferrera, Linnae Bulum, Maggie Manz and Dorothy Rasmussen

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05PM by George Fromm, seconded by Cher Krumins-Beens

Review of last minutes – Approved 1st by Linnae Bulum and 2nd by Ushantha Govender

Tree Funds – Dorothy deposited funds from St. Francis still waiting to hear where they would like the trees planted. Tracey will work to get a monthly statement of the total fund level for January meeting.

Fall Planting – After delays from Sandy trees arrived last week. However, 15 of the trees (1/2 the order) that arrived were not healthy, unable to be planted and sent back. We are waiting to hear back from nursery if we can get trees in time for this year or if we need to wait for next planting. George will work with nursery to come up with back-up options for funds if we can't find good trees from nursery in time.

Down Trees - George spoke with Lisa Simms from Tree Federation on standards from other towns of downed trees. Based on his conversation, we've determined that regulations truly are not State based but actually more borough related and the access to required funds.

STC Mail – Received a thank you letter from Eggert residents (By Carol and Ray Vomacka) for new tree being replaced for a lost tree.

Fall NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference Meeting – Maggie informed STC that Metuchen's five-year forestry plan needs to be updated based on her core meeting training. STC plans to review the previous plan during the January meeting and revise.

317 Midland Planting Update - Chris Cosenza, zoning officer followed up with request of owners to replace better trees.

Fanwood Community Contest - Example contest that STC is considering for Metuchen for next year's Arbor Day. For 2013 STC will add contest element as a part of Arbor Day sub-committee.

Myrtle Fee Update – STC is still waiting to hear back from borough what the right of way of Middlesex Water Company is for that area. Tracey will follow-up with Bill to get answer to move forward. *Current situation:* Karen Alexander approached STC via email about the loss of the trees in the area. She is interested in spear heading

the gathering of neighborhood donation program but would like STC to manage planting of the trees. To do so STC needs to confirm that we can plant in the areas of interest by residents (due to right of way and Middlesex water right of way) and that the funds they collect can be part of the current tree bank system. STC goal is to have an answer for her by January.

Sandy Repercussions Borough Plans Update – Dorothy spoke with Fred. Clean up for the storm is still on-going and going to be a long process.

Mayor's Update – We were unable to get a response to our request for a maintenance plan. STC would like to invite Mayor and DPW for a round table discussion in Feb of 2013. Tracey will send the invitation on behalf of STC.

History of issue: Mayor's current statement on this matter is that Metuchen residents would currently not want to fund the at least \$2Million investment to remove all the needed improvements. However, STC is pushing to get a better understanding of DPW's plan to deal with the removal of "dead" trees and of maintenance of healthy trees in our town. Once we receive a response to this request STC would work to develop next steps for how we can be of assistance to develop the plan.

Committee Appointments - New nominations are in January. Positions are Chairperson, Secretary and sub-committee appointments. Members will consider their interest and be ready to nominate/vote next meeting

New Business –

Tracey will be preparing the budget request form for 2013 due Dec. 14, 2012.

2013 Green Communities Grant – Ushantha will research and report to team opportunity by next meeting.

Ushantha found a course on Tree Care being offered by Rutgers' continuing Education Department. See link <http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20121117/NJNEWS/311170004/Tree-care-training-more-important-than-ever-after-Hurricane-Sandy> . Tracey shared class link with borough.

Next Meeting: Following meeting will be held MONDAY, JANUARY 14 @ 7PM. Tracey will request to permanently change the day of our STC meetings to Tuesday starting February 2013.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04 by Maggie Manz and seconded by Linnae Bulun