



METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

Minutes: February 13 , 2012

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

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03PM by Tracey Gelber, seconded by Linnae Bulun

- **Metuchen Friends of the Library** - Sandra F. president of the Friends of the Library is waiting for tree recommendation list from George. She was informed by Tracey that we would not be replacing/removing the current plaque that is at the location.
- **Mayor Report** - Dorothy reported Mayor wants to avoid have STC become the “middle man” for tree removal or trimming for the town as he is currently working on developing a permit system with public works. STC requested being involved in process of creating the system. Dorothy to give update at March meeting.
- **99 Orchard replanting request** - Frank continues to work with the water company to get information
- **Spring Planting** will be 42 trees main focus to be Amboy and Durham in addition to resident request.
- **Annual Report Status** – Cher has emailed approved report to Borough Hall for approved town website posting
 - STC reviewing possibility of having homeowners be involved in planting of trees they request and paid for by STC. Only way to proceed would be if we agree to have an approved STC member present on day of delivery to confirm tree was planted. Dorothy also to see if Boy Scouts maybe interested in helping with these type of plantings.
- **Boro Hall Tree Plaque program** – George will order plaque. Individual tags will include 3 lines of text Slots to include Person Name, with preselected tag lines (ie “In Honor Of”, “In Memory Of”, In Celebration Of”, etc.) and date. Donation level will be \$300.
 - Need to develop advertising plan (ideas to promote via website, social media, local media, senior centers and/or funeral homes)
 - Dorothy to find out if need additional approval to proceed with program
- **St. Joseph Tree Removal** – George got crew working on project remove the tree stump close to sidewalk.
- **Metuchen High School Cultural Club** - Frank continues to work with school on project.
- **STC Flyer program** – George and Cher created three Draft flyers. Cher to send to Dorothy to see if we can proceed with these informational pieces can have a home on the city website.

- **Arbor day (4/27/12)** - Frank to reach out Mrs. Carter report back March meeting
- **Zoning/Planning Liaison**– Maggie to review website for meeting dates where zoning topics could warrant an STC presence. She will keep members posted on need to attend meetings
- **Bulletin Board Metuchen Library** – Cher worked with Melody Kokola at library. STC will provide Arbor day materials for April board and “Fall”/Lawn clean-up materials for Oct. Frank to help cher with Oct. board.
- **Metuchen Messenger Articles** (4x per year) – Linnae researching articles and topics for write-ups
- **Tree Inventory** – Ushentha recommend we do walk around to confirm inventory and that future plantings will need more detailed reports of placement. STC members agreed to “walk around” day to be scheduled in the Spring.
- **Communications** – Tracey is requesting a Shade Tree email be created for our use. The email address requested by STC is stc@metuchen.com (Dorothy to follow-up). Dorothy reported that Borough Hall has Wi-Fi available. Cher to bring laptop to March meeting to test.
- **Resident Requests:**
 - 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.
 - 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).

Next Meeting: March 12th @ 7PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:29 by Ushentha Govender and seconded by Frank Ferrera