



METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

Minutes: January 9, 2012

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

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05PM by George, seconded by Cher

- Robert Ruggerio – 99 Orchard Ave is concerned about the trees that were removed by the water company at Charles Field. The buffer between his house and the field is now gone. Would like more trees to be planted between the houses and the park. George advised he would visit site and that this would be a good project for scouts as it is off the street and in a safe area. Tracey will follow up with scouts.
- Sandra F – new President of the Friends of the Library would like a tree or permission to plant a tree on the library grounds to replace a tree that had been planted but has since died near a plaque for a past STC Chair from the Metuchen Republicans. George will send a list of recommended trees.
- Nominations for officers were made.
 - Tracey Gelber nominated to Chairperson Position by Frank Ferrera, seconded by Maggie Manza and unanimously approved by the group.
 - Cher Krumins-Beens nominated to Secretary Position by George Fromm, seconded by Linnae Bulun and unanimously approved by the group.
- Dorothy reported Mayor's concerns from Jan 3 meeting regarding est. of 600 dead trees. STC requested that he work directly with Fred Hall and that he should consider the need for additional revenue to resolve issue. Also to consider tree ratio to maintain our Shade Tree City USA status. STC request to better understand the Mayor's priority for STC and to develop a better communication system.
- Discussion continued regarding Firewood – was confirmed most trees are chipped but unclear how that is shared with community. Dorothy was going to look into issue and report back.
- Planting Strategy was confirmed to be filling in Amboy and Middlesex in addition to honoring homeowner requests.
- Annual Report Status report – George currently making final edits and researching how the est. \$1K renewal fee is covered.
- Tracey is going to research what needs to be done for the Community Grant. Todd Wycoff is main contact for data.

- Boro Hall Tree Plaque program update – Mayor likes program idea. George received price points for plaque options. STC members agreed that should be wood plaque with 30 engraved slots. Slots to include Person Name, with preselected tag lines (ie “In Honor Of”, “In Memory Of”, In Celebration Of”, etc.) George to work with STC to develop funding, program advertising and establish guidelines for level of donations.
- St. Joseph Tree Removal Update – George is asking crew working on project to also remove the tree stump close to sidewalk. He’ll report back on their response.
- Amboy Ave New Building Project is endangering large Red Oak on construction site. Dose not look like it will survive. STC is request better understanding of who is responsible for this type of tree lose. George to discuss with Chris Coseza .
- Metuchen High School Cultural Club is requesting STC help to help their student with project of expanding courtyard. Frank will take lead to advise students on items such as selection of trees, possible donation of tree, placement of tree, etc. Tracey will provide Frank with faculty contact person.
- Discussed idea of new informational flyers to be created by STC regarding mulching, sidewalk issues, watering, etc. George will work to develop first flyer. Dorothy reminded STC that all flyers must be approved prior to posting and/or distribution.
- 2012 Project assignments were agree upon:
 - Arbor day (4/27/12)- Frank
 - Zoning/Planning Liaison – Maggie
 - Bulletin Board Metuchen Library – Cher
 - County Fair – Ushentha
 - Spring/Fall Planting – George
 - Conrail/Middlesex Water Outreach – Frank
 - PR (Info Flyers and website) – Cher & George
 - Annual Report – Tracey
 - Metuchen Messenger Articles (4x per year) – Linnae
 - Tree Inventory – Ushentha & Frank

Next Meeting: February 13th @ 7PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:52 by Linnae and seconded by Maggie