



## METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

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### Minutes: November 12, 2012

**Present:** Tracey Gelber, George Fromm, Cher Krumins-Beens, Ushantha Govender, Linnae Bulum and Dorothy Rasmussen

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:02PM by Ushantha Govender, seconded by George Fromm

**Review of last minutes** – Approved 1<sup>st</sup> by Linnae Bulum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ushantha Govender

**Tree Funds** – Chair needing to get most current tally from Bill.

**Fall Planting** – Planting has been postponed to the week after Thanksgiving due to the impact of “Sandy”. Updated letter is being sent out to the homeowners this week with new planting dates.

**Fall NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference Meeting** – STC sent two members and gave two of our paid spots to public works for them to achieve their certification points. STC covered cost of their attendance.

**STC Tree Plaque Promo** – Promoted “Tree of Life” Program at the Metuchen Street Fair. St. Francis raised funds for three additional trees and will be sending funds for allocation to borough and give location request for the trees to STC in the coming weeks.

**Country Fair** – We won honorable mention and are excited for next year.

**317 Midland Planting** - They need to replace two trees that were removed from property but George reviewed the request and there is not enough space for two trees. STC is recommending that they donate funds to the Metuchen tree bank account instead. We have discussed with Chris Cosenza, zoning officer.

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

**Myrtle Fee** – 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. George will follow up with Chris Cosenza about current right of way. Tracey will let Karen know current status of potential project.

**Sandy Repercussions** – STC needs an update of total number of trees that fell and what the health of those trees were in.

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. Dorothy will review with the Mayor our request for a proposal so that we can develop our next steps.

**Next Meeting:** Following meeting will be held MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 7PM. Dorothy will request to permanently change the day of our STC meetings to Tuesday starting January 2013.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:51 by Cher Kruminis-Beens and seconded by Linnae Bulun