



## METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

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### Minutes: September 10, 2012

**Present:** Tracey Gelber, George Fromm, Cher Krumin-Beens, Franklin Ferrara, Ushantha Govender, Maggie Manza, Linnae Bulum, and Dorothy Rasmussen

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:04PM by Tracey Gelber, seconded by George Fromm

**Homeowner Visit** – Patricia Y. Crouse from 65 Henry St. (Corner of Barnstable) verbal and written requests for permission to remove older trees from her property (at her own expense and will replant with STC approved tree) and trim oak trees that are over hanging her roof. Next step: George will visit homeowner tomorrow but it appears will give owner permission to remove.

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

**Tree Funds** – the revised final remaining budget from \$14k is at \$8,562. Reserves are at \$982.75. Owner at 20 Aldreich will be removing trees (\$275 will be contributed to fund per tree removed). Once finalized removal the fund will be increased by owner \$275 addition of these funds is still pending.

**Fall Planting** – Current bid letter is for 30 trees went out in June. Bids just got returned to STC this past week so will review this month to select nursery.

Need to determine if should continue to plant on the wire side of street or should rework how STC plants trees. Discuss: Should we plant further into resident's property lines, ask for help from Utility Company, send a town representative to follow Utility crews when come cut in our town or agree to just plant only on non-wire. STC wants an agreement from town reps to agree on our plan on how to proceed in future. Ushantha and Franklin will work on a proposed plan for STC to review and present to Metuchen for consideration.

George will provide Public works a pre-planting list for review and for this Fall planting we will ask homeowner request if we can plant further into their property lines, for non-homeowner request we will plant on opposite side of wires but will revisit decision for future plantings.

Main street tree selections need to consider mixing tree variety to add depth to the landscape and minimize effect of loss on landscape when have lost of trees. STC is recommending Chestnuts, Wild Cherry variety, and George Fromm will continue to research and develop an approved planting list for downtown commercial areas.

**Tree Inventory** – Future walk about will be scheduled for the Fall. We will schedule during our October meeting.

**Conrail Update** – senator Menendez is looking into our STC concerns. Dorothy will report back next meeting.

**Mayor Report** – No reports

**Fall NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference Meeting** – Crown Plaza in Cherry Hill Oct. 26 & 27. Members that need Core Training will be scheduled to attend. STC will have 2 attend on Friday and 2 on Saturday. Tracey will email to confirm details.

**Library Bulletin Board** - Cher will work on visual for Oct. Board.

**Fall Metuchen Messenger Article-** Linnae working on article to be written.

**STC Tree Plaque Promo** – St. Francis is fundraising to add two trees to our plaque program. They are hoping to donate in time to make the fall planting. Tracey continues to work-up a description of “Tree of Life” Program for consideration to incorporate into our page on the town website. Tracey will develop write-up for submission to web master.

**Country Fair** – Theme this year is “Gardens” scheduled for Oct. 6. Ushentha and Franklin will be going to plan and present ideas/needs at July meeting. George has tent and will acquire two trees, Tracey has two tables, Cher will print materials for posters and handouts from Arbor Day website,

CRAFT - Pre-make of Salt Dough ornaments - Tracey will send to members for each member to make 40 and get back to her by Oct. 4. Kids will deco with markers.

TABLE DECOs- use thank you card to promo Tree of Life program, flyers from last year and from Arbor sites (cher), Candy and Carft markers from Oriental trading, Shades of Green for wardrobe, tablecloth (Tracey), homeowner request clipboard (Tracey), Complaints call public work (Cher).

Work Schedule:

Set-up George, Tracey and Franklin @ 8AM

8:30 – 12:30 Linnane, Frank, George, Ushentha

12:30 – 4:30 Cher, Tracy,

**Next Meeting:** Following meeting will be held TUESDAY Oct. 9 @ 7PM due to COLUMBUS DAY Monday Oct. 8

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:27 by Franklin Ferrara and seconded by Linnae Bulun