



## METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

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### Minutes: April 23, 2013

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

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:08PM by Tracey Gelber, seconded by Maggie Manza

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

**Tree Funds** – To be presented at next meeting

**Fall/Spring Planting** – Planting of trees started Monday 4/22. Tree quality is high for this season and we are trying a few new varieties. With the leftover trees from Fall (14) and donated memorial trees total trees planted this week were 35. Main focus for this planting was Main Street.

**Myrtle Field** – Tracey communicated to residents that STC is unable to help them with the replanting because of the right of way and it would require residents to plan on their own property. STC offered our services to help with tree recommendations should they decided to proceed with planting.

**Tree plaque outreach update** –George created a form to show different kinds of donations that can be made. Tracey will work with Borough to get the form on STC portion of the town website. Franklin will take lead moving forward to continue outreach for the program.

**Mayor's Visit Update** – Chamber of Commerce book again showcases Mayor's and town support for the maintenance of continued growth of town trees. STC is excited to continue work with Mayor and town representatives to make this public statement come to fruition.

**Creation of Permit System** – Next step to move forward on creating this system will be to have Maggie spearhead the drafting of a document based on the permit used by Rivers Edge to provide town for review.

### New Business

- **Wire/Tree conflicts follow up** –PS&G continues to miss handles the trees in their pruning of trees. STC would like to better understand how the cuts are determined. George will draft letter stating what we would request and send to PS&G for statement
- **Fred Hall/Public Works Tree Issues** –Home owners are requesting the removal of 3 large maples trees that are not currently dead. Is STC willing to give permission for the removal of the trees? Our position is to grant permission to the residents but have them replace with trees of equal value per borough ordinance.

- **Library Bulletin** – Library board was not done in April but STC contacted Library and was never given final permission to decorate board and therefore never went in to do so. Cher to provide Dorothy with the emails to review with Library staff to make future plans.
- **Land Use Ordinance change** – some changes will affect the Shade Tree Dorothy will continue to update STC as decisions are made.
- **School Plantings (Arbor Day)** – Campbell is requesting to also be part of the Earth Day program. STC is having trouble getting the donation of the trees from Home Depot. STC will work with PTO to request store donations of funds and/or trees for future plantings. Maggie will contact teachers to give them update for this year.
- **Country Fair** – Will to start planning for event in upcoming meetings
- **Planning** – Reviewed plans for 177 Center street & 120/124 Harvard: George is going to speak with Chris to determine what they need from STC in terms to these plans to make sure we are providing quality suggestions, details of what is needed and format for our comments.

**Next Meeting:** Following meeting will be held TUESDAY, May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:21 by Ushantha Govender and second by Linnae Bulum