



METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

Minutes: February 26, 2013

Present: George Fromm , Cher Krumins-Beens, Ushantha Govender, Franklin Ferrera, Linnae Bulum, Maggie Manz and Dorothy Rasmussen

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03PM by Franklin Ferrera, seconded by Linnae Bulum

Review of last minutes –Approved 1st by Ushantha Govender and 2nd by Franklin Ferrera

Tree Funds – Dorothy spoke with Becky and to her recollection Tree of Life fund is roughly at \$950. The developers fund is estimated at \$1,200 and the STC budget is set at \$6,000. Tracey will continue to work to get confirmation of the actual funds for all accounts to report at the next meeting.

Fall Planting – George did provide list to Ushantha for all 30 trees. She will wait to enter the placement for all 30 trees into the inventory database once we can verify placement with a walk-around.

Spring Planting – Bids our out at a request range of \$4k-\$5K. This provides a possible bid of 13 – 20 trees. Bids are due back 3/2/13 for review. George will review received bids with Bill and award bid with-in 2 weeks of receiving estimates. The bid does include the “tree of life” placements which are the same kind of flowering tree (Koren Estewartia).

Myrtle Field Update – *Update:* George reviewed site and there are issues with putting new trees with the mature trees that are there. Dorothy will follow-up with Bill again to get an answer about the right away. Tracey will give residents an update of situation. *History of issue:* 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.

Sandy Repercussions Borough Plans Update –Fred Hall provided a list of trees that have been removed Ushetha will update tree inventory list. Federal government will be giving funds for removal of trees but is not providing funds for replacement. Tracey will look into the option of having some of these funds allocated to help STC initiatives. (Still pending)

Mayor's Update –STC has recommended to Mayor that spruces and junipers be planted for the Cemetery area.

Mayor to attend March 26 meeting for roughly 30 minutes he is set to arrive at 7:00pm. Items planned to review with him are:

- His vision for our town and forestry. Review the current STC agreements such as the no tree under power lines, planting main thorough ways and review DPW's plan to deal with the removal of “dead” trees in addition to maintenance of healthy trees in our town.

- Grievance with Utility Company handling of Metuchen Trees. George to research the rules governing the rights of trees near power lines.
- Discuss current ordinances and STC role in the process/communication for tree work in town. Discuss start of a potential program of tree permits for planting and removal.
- What is the role of Shade Tree in the town according to the Mayor?
- The interest in the Rutgers 2013 Green Communities Grant and Metuchen's willingness to match funds

Main Street near Casablanca Hairstyle Tree – Bill has been approached by landlord about removing the tree because of roots damaging the sewer lines and his basement. Dorothy recommended that sewer line be fixed instead of removing tree. George took a look and agreed with Dorothy's recommendation.

Montclair Ordinance –Maggie spoke with Greg Russell with the environmental committee from the area and the ordinance is no longer being implemented. They were able to provide us examples of some PR materials the commission has been able to use for fundraising.

New Business

- Dorothy to ask for copy of plans when it relates to trees so she can share it with the committee
- Renewal of the tree inventory may have been lapsed – Dorothy to follow-up with Bill Borth on the status to understand next steps on how we can gain access to the system again.
- Shade Tree USA was not renewed – George and Frank will work to resolve issue and report back to STC status at the March meeting.

Next Meeting: Following meeting will be held TUESDAY, March 26 @ 7PM.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22 by Ushantha Govender and second by Linnae Bulum