



METUCHEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION
BOROUGH HALL • 500 MAIN STREET • METUCHEN, NJ 08840

Minutes: Nov 26, 2013

Present: Dorothy Rasmussen, Tracey Gelber, Linnae Bulum, Ushentha Govender, George Fromm, Franklin Ferrara and Maggie Manza

Meeting Called to Order: 7:07PM by Tracey Gelber and seconded by Linnae Bulum

Review of last minutes: Approved 1st by Maggie Manza by Linnae Bulum

Joined by Craig Coster-22 Concord, who has low hanging branch over garage. Mr. Coster was informed that Public Works is responsible for trimming branch. Tracey to follow-up with Fred Hall.

Follow-up:

- **Membership Cards from NJ Shade tree Federation** –Tracey and Linnae cards are still pending, nothing has been received since October
- **Tree Funds** – Dorothy will request that prior to meeting Becky, CFO will place in Shade Tree mail box for review - still pending
- **Tree plaque outreach update:** George will finalize. Jessica Lee name placed on plaque, tree to be planted in her name, will use a Willow tree to be planted at Center Street Park. Tracey will reach out to Fred Hall regarding planting both Willow trees. The second Willow tree to be planted in a park.
- **Creation of Permit System** – Council has no objection to what we have proposed and we are free to proceed. Maggie will follow-up with Chris for next steps. Maggie will continue to follow-up.
- **Shade tree USA Status** – We received stickers showing membership but still have not received confirmation or understanding as to why we are not listed on website. Tracey will continue to research.
- **NJ Shade Tree Federation Training** – DPW utilized 3 of our 4 spots. No Shade Tree commission members where able to attend this years training.
- **Fall Planting** – Completed: Some changes made to original planting schedule, including trees being relocated to home owners who indicated interest. Other trees reassigned to planting in Myrtle Park. Add 9 elm to planting list for Spring.
- **Spring planting:** Will need to determine where and what trees to plant.
 - Considering over-hauling tree planting process, so people actually getting a certified letter with receipt of notification from homeowner. Come prepared to discuss in January.
 - For Spring planting want to consider a more personal approach to tree location selection. In the coming months STC will look to create process for future tree planting selection.

- Following locations provided by Dorothy will be added to Spring planting: 9 Elm Ct., 57 Bounty, 27 school St. These locations need to be confirmed: 480 Wakefield, Alfredo Scalfani 732-548-6312, Roy/Angela on W. Chestnut
- **2014 Budget:** Dorothy alerted STC that some money from next years budget will be reallocated to public works for pruning of trees
- **164 Maple** – New house being built has a tree requirement that would place a shade tree under wires. Dorothy suggested that tree be planted across the street as a solution. STC approves this solutions and/or fund reimbursement to town. Tracey to send communication to Chris. Maggie will talk to some homeowners on Maple to determine their interest.
- **Construction Issues** being raised by George:
 - 50 Christol – homeowner requested recommendation of appropriate tree for placement but we have been unable to reach agreement with town vs. resident. Tracey will talk to Chris, regarding facilitating a quick resolution. STC is recommending that Chris request resident pay \$275 in lieu of tree planting on her property and funds will used to plant at different location in town.
- 311 Durham Ave – Shade Tree Hit by a car. Ushentha reviewed and updated system. Tree was white ash at 2 DBH as of October 2009.
- Reviewing list from Metuchen Street Fair for Tree request – Maggie has compiled a spreadsheet - to be discussed as new business in January 2014 meeting.
- Hillside Ave – Fred Schmitt would like replacement tree for tree lost during Sandy requesting a Pear Tree but STC is no longer planting Pears so will provide a more appropriate selection. Tracey will email Fred
- 2 Talmadge – has send STC a second letter regarding pruning their damaged tree. The tree will stand, Public Works to trim. Tracey has sent email sent to Fred Hall.
- Dorothy would like us to consider future planting of Aylin Street for the spring. One tree planted on this street during fall planting, and Dorothy has spoken to a few homeowners on street to explore interest in tree planting for next Spring.

New Business

Pruning of Borough trees into balls: George has discussed matter with borough and homeowners. What is STC course of action? Dorothy will explore with landlord of old Blockbuster location where this issue has occurred.

Volunteers for next year: Maggie has organized list of community members interested in volunteering, and sent to STC in Excel format. Will discuss in January.

Tracey Gelber is tendering resignation as both Shade tree commission chairperson and member effective January 2014. Tracey has volunteer to be STC secretary and will reach out to volunteers.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, January 28 @ 7PM; there will be no meeting held December 2013.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm 1st by George Fromm & 2nd by Linnae Bulum