

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on July 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mrs. Margaret Law
Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman
Mr. Lawrence Travaglia
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Mr. Dave Dubee, Forester
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law of 1975, "Open Public Meetings Act."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Salerno moved that the minutes of the Commission's May 7, 2014 Regular Meeting be approved as circulated, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. Voice vote. All in favor, except for Mrs. Law who abstained. **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Williams opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams reported that there is still \$33,000 remaining in the budget.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dave Dubee presented his report.

Morris Plains Library – Forester there are (3) three trees at the library that have been taken over by poison ivy and have other problems need to be takend down w/stumps.

The Commission Secretary mentioned that there already is a purchase order done for this work, but it is being be held until it is determined exactly what work will be done; the purchase order may need to be adjusted. Mr. Williams stated he did tentatively approve this work

Morris Plains Library – Foresters stated (1) red maple near front walkway needs to be needs to be pruned; (1) 12"-24" blue spruce on the opposite side of the parking lot, is dead and should be removed w/stump. The Blue Spruce tree may actually be located in Roberts Garden.

There was a discussion concerning the Blue Spruce tree as to whether it is located in Roberts Garden.

It was determined that the Forester and Mr. Williams will look at all of the above trees after the meeting and will notify the secretary with their determinations.

Mr. Williams stated he will speak w/Mrs. McCluskey to notify the Roberts Garden Commission about the blue spruce.

11 Hillview Avenue –Forester stated (1) 12”-24” tree w/stump will be takendown in connection with the new sidewalk; this will be a capital expense, not a Shade Tree Commission expense.

Community Park – Forester stated (3) trees near the jungle gym have been taken down w/stumps; DPW assisted them with the stumps.

83 Maple Avenue – Mr. Salerno asked the status of the stump issue at this location. Mr. Dubee advised he does not believe anything was done about this issue.

Mr. Salerno advised the resident called back. There may be plantings around or near this stump. The resident advises he would like this stump removed.

Mr. Dubee will double check this situation with the resident.

Brief cross discussion about this.

The Commission Secretary confirmed the work that is being approved – essentially the work that has already been completed.

It was also decided to include the Blue Spruce tree in Roberts Garden since the Borough generally performs this kind of work for the Roberts Garden Commission; “the town usually takes care of Roberts Garden.”

Mr. Travaglia moved that the work on the Work Sheet be approved, seconded by Mr. Salerno. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Dubee will contact the Commission Secretary as to the work that will done at the Library to remove the trees with the poison ivy problem.

Mr. Salerno referred to the grass area between the parking lot and the Community Center at Community Park stating there is a large tree in this area. The tree is brushing the wires and probably the power company will need to take care of it.

Mr. Dubee advised he will look at this tree, and if they can do the work needed, they will do it. If the power company needs to do the work, they will be contacted to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williams reported the new trees have been planted. The company hired to perform the work is from Long Island, and he believes they did a “pretty good job.” It took two days; they had maps and were well organized. There were a few glitches regarding having to move a few trees and one resident who did not receive a notification letter, but nothing serious. There were two extra trees when the planting was done at Watnong Park, and new locations within the park were found to plant these extra trees. He advised that unfortunately several of the trees are not looking too well. He mentioned the trees along Tabor Road stating he is wondering if these trees are going to survive.

Mr. Dubee stated he thinks they will; they will have to “babied” over the next two months. He asked who is responsible for them, including watering of trees such as those along Tabor Road.

Councilwoman Fu said that technically it is the installer’s responsibility to monitor them and care for them.

Mr. Dubee said he would talk with Mr. Signorelli at the DPW about helping out with watering these trees planted in the parks and along public roadways.

Mrs. Law asked if it looks like people are watering the residential trees.

Councilwoman Fu said she believes the residential trees look good. She thanked Mrs. Law for preparing the “tree care cards” for the residents.

A suggestion was made that perhaps Mayor Druetzler could call Johnson & Johnson to see if maybe they would be able to do the tree watering in their area.

Cross discussion about the watering issues, including how much watering needs to be done; how consistently it must be done; “gator bags” that can be wrapped around the base of a tree and filled once a week and what the cost would be; how much water should be “given” during each watering; perhaps the “gator bags” could be used selectively; for example, just for the trees at the parks and public locations; and planting sites along Tabor Road.

Councilwoman Fu offered to contact Johnson & Johnson to see if they can help with the watering of the trees along Tabor Road, especially those planted on their property.

Mrs. Law commented on the difficulty the supplier has in that they have to provide a warranty on the continued survival of the trees (at least for a specified period of time), but have no control over how much or how little watering the trees get (from rainwater and from actual watering).

Councilwoman Fu advised the fall planting will be arriving shortly. A total of 119 trees will be planted. Since there is no meeting in August, she asked what the Commission members thought the timing should be to send out the letters to the residents and other work that needs to be done. The trees to be planted during the fall planting will be

Districts 2 and 3 and will also include some parking lots also. She will also need to talk with DPW about some trees that will need to come down before planting starts.

Mr. Williams mentioned watering of the trees planted at the train station and wondered who was watering them.

Councilwoman Fu said she thinks these trees look well. She could also include information about the planting and caring for the new trees planted in an issue of *Plains Talk*.

The Commission Secretary suggested putting this tree care and tree planting information on the website.

Councilwoman Fu mentioned a tree that is at the end of the Merchant block where there is a small island. This tree has a big bare spot in a limb, and she is wondering if there should be some kind of care given to it. She reported that the Roberts Garden ceremony went very nicely; this was the dedication of the identification tables. She also encouraged all to visit the Museum to see the time capsule and its contents when it is ready to be displayed. Suggestions are being accepted for what to put in the next time capsule. Those representing the Share Tree Commission would be appreciated. There will be a write-up in *Plains Talk* asking for suggestions.

Mr. Dubee appeared to be familiar with this tree.

Mr. Dubee provided information on these bags and the different types that are available.

Mr. Salerno suggested talking with the DPW before actually purchasing any of the "gator bags."

Mrs. Law moved to approve the purchase of at least 25 of the previously recommended "gator bags" for the trees, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Williams noted that the next Commission meeting will be on September 3.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, Mr. Travaglia moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karen M. Coffey
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan
Recording Secretary