

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on May 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mrs. Margaret Law  
Mr. Lawrence Travaglia  
Mr. C. David Visscher  
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman  
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

Absent: Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Dave Dubee, Forester

### **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. Travaglia moved that the minutes of the Commission's April 1, 2015 Regular Meeting be approved as circulated, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor.  
**Motion carried.**

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Williams opened the meeting to the public to speak on matters other than those on the agenda. Mrs. Ann Bono of 137 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Plains is asking for a tree to be planted on her property. The commission informed her that this is a County road and they will do their best at the next planting it is too late for the spring planting. Cross discussion about planting on a County road.

### **BUDGET**

Mr. Williams stated that there is \$30,449.40 left in the budget at this time

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Nick Yin at 4 Bryce Way had a tree planted last fall and asked to have it removed. Mrs. Smith his neighbor at 40 Janeway Place would like the tree.  
Cross discussion about moving the tree at this time.

Mr. G. Sittmann reported a tree where the roots are creating problems with his lawn and sprinkler system. He wants to remove it at his expense.  
Cross discussion about the reason behind removing it.

Mr. Williams sent a letter dated April 15, 2015 to Mr. Jim Kutcha and Ms. Marilyn Bird, One Greenwood Road, granting them Shade Tree Commission permission to remove one (1) tree on Borough property in their yard. The letter indicates the residents must understand that they are responsible for all costs associated with the removal of this tree.

## **FORESTER'S REPORT**

Since the Forester was not present at this meeting, Joanna read his report and also listed the various memoranda and telephone calls during the month of April and early May.

The Forester is asking the Department of Public Works (DPW) to investigate two locations where the residents are concerned about tree roots raising sidewalks. The two locations are 15 Diana Road and 15 Maple Avenue.

**218 Littleton Road** – The Mayor called about a County tree at this location requesting that the County Shade Tree be advised. The secretary called the county notifying them.

**22 Diana Road** – Memorandum dated April 13, 2015. Resident Mr. Lang stated a Borough tree in front of his house needs to be pruned or removed. He has a tree of his own on his lawn that is leaning because the Borough tree is obstructing the sun. Being placed on worksheet and will be discussed at June meeting.

**158 Sun Valley Way** – The Forester notes to take down (1) 12"-34" w/stump.

**144 Sun Valley Way** – Forester refers to the opposite side of the street and indicates that (1) 24"-36" tulip tree be taken down. No stump.

**34 Maple Avenue** – The Forester notes that (1) 36"+ w/stump be taken down.

**68 Glenbrook Road** – Memorandum dated April 27, 2015. Resident Mr. Olivo states a Borough tree in front of his house is dead and would like it removed. The Forester has requested confirmation as to whether or not this tree is actually a Borough tree. Being placed on worksheet and will be discussed at the June meeting.

**2 Valley Stream Circle** – The Forester indicates there are two (2) Douglas Fir trees that need to be sprayed for disease. He advises the cost will be \$160.

**3 Wyckoff Way** – The Forester notes that two (2) trees, 12"-24" need pruning.

**7 Trowbridge Rd. on Wyckoff** - The Forester notes that (1) tree needs pruning.

**15 Diana Road** – The Forester notes to (1) 12"-24" w/36"+ stump be taken down.

**16 Laurel Street** – The Forester notes that (2) 12"-24" trees need pruning.

**158 Mountain Way on Idlewild Dr.** – The Forester notes (1) 12" an under and (1) 2"-24". w/sumps need to be taken down.

**115 Glenbrook Road** – The Forester notes to prune (1) 24"-36" tree.

**35 Sun Valley Way right of driveway** – The Forester notes that (1) 36"+ w/stump be take down.

**16 Mayfair Road** – Memorandum dated May 6, 2015. Resident Mr. Purves states a new tree was planted last summer, but it has now died. It was replaced in November and that one, too, has died. Mr. Williams will write a letter to "Cerbo".

**Borough Library** – Mr. Williams requested the Forester to check tree in front of the Library and also to check the tree with ivy on it at the back of the Library.

Ms. Rota will notify Forester.

## **REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU**

It was stated that the Commission will soon begin Phase 4 of the No-Net-Loss Reforestation Project. The project began Fall 2013. The year's Spring planting will consist of 140 trees planted throughout the Borough. Some of the trees will be planted

at residential sites, while others will be planted at various parks. Tree will also be planted along Route 53 in front of the Honeywell buildings. Just as a reminder this tree planting project was made possible through a grant from the State of New Jersey Forestry Department. The grant is compensating for trees lost during the reconstruction of the Route 53/Route 10 interchange. When this project is completed, a total of 408 trees will have been planted. The final planting of this project will take place this Fall.

There was brief discussion as to how the residents who have had new trees planted at their locations can help these newly-planted trees survive and thrive.

### **APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Travaglia moved that the Purchase Orders be approval as presented, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The appropriate worksheets for tree removal, stump removal, pruning, spraying, and other work needed to be done were completed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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