

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on October 7, 2015 at 7:06 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman
Mr. Lawrence Travaglia
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman

Councilwoman Laurie Fu
Mr. Dave Dubee, Forester

Absent: Mrs. Margaret Law

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

Councilwoman Fu asked that several items in the minutes be clarified. She and the Commission Secretary reviewed the clarifications needed for the September 10, 2015 minutes. Mr. Williams requested a clarification, but it then appeared that a note clarified his concern.

Mr. Salerno moved that the minutes of the Commission's September 10, 2015 Regular Meeting be approved as revised/clarified, 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.

Ms. Marilyn Bird, One Greenwood Road, Morris Plains, advised about letters that she received/sent. She provided both letters to the Commission Secretary. She provided commentary concerning the situation at hand.

Mr. Danny Conway, 3 Greenwood Road, Morris Plains, commented on the situation at hand concerning significant tree overhang in this area and at his property.

Apparently, there is an issue with one or more private trees at this location concerning the health of the trees, occasional damage caused by low-hanging branches/limbs to cars parked underneath, and possible liability issues.

Ms. Bird stated she has had the trees professionally assessed, and they are healthy. She does not want to take them down. She also provided information as to tree damage that took place as a result of hurricane "Sandy". Further, she explained

additional care and assessment she has performed regarding these trees and their health.

Mr. Conway advised that on several occasions he has offered to split the cost to either replace these trees and have new smaller trees planted in their place, but his offers have been turned down. He again explained what he is willing to do on his own.

Ms. Bird advised of work that was done to attempt to rectify this situation. This discussion also included references to pruning, proper and improper.

Mr. Salerno stated he visited the properties yesterday. He also advised he has told both individuals what the Borough's position is on this matter. Since they are private trees, the Borough has no responsibility. He did repeat that property owners "have the right to trim off anything that grows over your boundary". He also commented on what happens when pruning Pine trees. If the Borough tried to do anything in this situation, it would be a trespassing situation.

Mr. Conway spoke about other trees he has on Green Acre property that are quite large and some are now at angles.

Mr. Salerno asked Mr. Dubee, Borough Forester for assistance on assessing this situation.

Mr. Dubee stated that he will meet with Mr. Conway.

Ms. Bird commented on Norway Spruce trees that are tall, strong, and healthy. Removing eight trees would cost close to \$15,000. It would take quite a while for newly-planted trees to provide significant shade. She provided additional information about her experience with regard to the trees over the years.

Ms. Bird and Mr. Conway continued to "argue" with one another about this situation.

Mr. Williams advised Ms. Bird and Mr. Conway that this meeting must continue.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams stated there is \$7,593.40 remaining in the budget at this time

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Fu referred to a "Borough letter" that she gave to them.

FORESTER'S REPORT

37 Canfield Place – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree need to be pruned.

35 Beech Drive – Forester stated (1) 12"-24" w/stump needs to be taken down. To be placed on worksheet for January/February 2016.

10 Headley Avenue – Forester stated (1) 36"+ tree needs to be sprayed for ants and deep root fertilizing.

32 Harrison Avenue – Forester stated (2) 24”-36” trees need to be pruned.

115 Glenbrook Road – The Forester reported that the power company removed half this tree and it is now lopsided. He stated that the tree (24”-36”) is not dead but needs to be pruned. To be placed on worksheet for January/February 2016.

10 Brook Drive South – Forester state that (5) 12’-24” trees need to be pruned.

Malapardis Pk.– Forester reported that earlier trees near the street/sidewalk were taken care of. These are trees in the back. He needs to check them out.

To be placed on worksheet to report at November meeting.

Speedwell Avenue (Friendly) – 12”-24” stump at this location needs to be removed so that a new tree can be planted at this site.

Court Road (across from driveway for 22 Court Road) – Forester stated that (1) 12”-24” tree no stump needs to be taken down. This is actually one-half tree.

Corner of Glenbrook Road and Mountain Way – Forester stated that (1) 24”-36” tree needs to be pruned.

The Forester reported that a tree that was at the corner of Franklin Place and Mountain Way was taken down and the stump is gone.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS

Brief cross discussion as to what the total cost will be for this work and the impact on the budget.

Mr. Salerno moved that the Purchase Orders be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. **All in favor. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williams advised he heard from Barbato today and reported on the discussion.

The Commission Secretary stated she sent out the four letters to the residents about trees.

Councilwoman Fu asked if Barbato agreed to replace those trees “that were lost last year in the spring, the ones that didn’t survive?” If they are she will contact the appropriate residents to let them know. There are five such trees.

Mr. Williams stated he will need to check with Barbato on the replacement trees. He is pretty certain they will do this.

Cross discussion to review trees still to be planted, including American Redbud.

Councilwoman Fu reminded that Barbato needs to let the Borough/Shade Tree Commission know when they plan to come to the Borough. She advised that at the upcoming One Day One School project, they want to plant two Cherry trees on the property. Could two of the 20 trees be planted at the school? The remaining 18 would be planted at Davenport.

No one had any objections to this plan proposed by Councilwoman Fu.

Brief cross discussion about upcoming work projects.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Salerno 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