

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on July 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.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

Councilwoman Laurie Fu
Mr. Robert Dubee, Forester

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Visscher moved that the Minutes of the Commission's June 6, 2012 meeting be approved as circulated, seconded by Mrs. Law. 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. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams read a letter received from the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Division of Parks and Forestry concerning the opportunity for Morris Plains to apply for a \$123,300 no-net-loss reforestation grant due to deforestation that has occurred in the Borough. The letter provided many details of the grant allocation. The letter is dated June 26, 2012.

Councilwoman Fu stated that while the wording in the letter is somewhat unclear, the Borough would be applying for a total grant of \$123,300. Four hundred trees at a cost of \$300 each equals \$120,000. The additional \$3,300 is needed for other related work.

Mr. Williams continued reading this letter for the Commission.

Mrs. Law moved that the Commission apply for this grant, returning a letter of interest as requested, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Fu provided additional information concerning the process of applying for the grant. She also provided an update of her attempt to schedule a meeting with the appropriate State representative who can meet with Commission members and her to further discuss this grant.

Mr. Salerno expressed concern over the requirement to engage a professional to perform certain work related to this grant.

Cross discussion concerning the work that would be done by the professional, including whether Councilwoman Fu or Mr. Williams should respond to the letter.

Councilwoman Fu said she could reply or if Mr. Williams prefers he could.

Mr. Williams will reply to the June 26, 2012 letter from the State.

Councilwoman Fu stated she will continue to try to reach the State representative.

Mrs. Law wondered if the Borough will receive the funding upfront or if the Borough must spend its own money with reimbursement from the State. She also commented that Route 53 is a County road, not a State road.

Cross discussion concerning the possible future development of certain areas along Route 53 and possible replacement of old Pear trees along Speedwell Avenue.

Mrs. Law thought that perhaps the Planning Board should have required Johnson & Johnson to plant trees along/on their property.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

3 Parker Drive – Forester stated that (2) under 12” crab apple trees need to be pruned.

91 Maple Avenue – Forester stated that this tree appears to be pushing new leaves. He suspects there may have been overuse of a weed killer. Tree should be placed on the worksheet to be checked in the fall to determine if it should be taken down.

1 Walsh Way – Forester stated that (1) 12”-24” tree needs to be taken down.

44 Sylvan Drive - Forester stated that (1) 12”-24” needs to be pruned.

26 Sun Valley Way – Forester stated (2) 12”-24” maple trees need to be pruned.

41 Glenbrook Road – Forester stated this should be placed on the worksheet and he will report back at the September meeting. .

74 Mountain Way – Forester stated this should be placed on the worksheet and he will report back at the September meeting. .

Sun Valley Way/Granniss Avenue. Forester stated that there are (2) under 12", (3) 12"-24" and (1) 24"-36" that need to be taken down no stumps required.

Sunrise Drive. – Secretary stated that there is (1) tree that is leaning across the road between the 1st and 2nd house on the right. Tree will be placed on worksheet. .

Arthur's in the municipal parking lot - Mr. Salerno stated that (1) 36" needs to be pruned.

17 Hillview Avenue - Mr. Salerno stated that resident has called again and stated that a large branch has fallen off. Tree should be place on worksheet.

Mrs. Law asked about 15 Franklin Place concerning the measurement from the center of the street.

Both Mr. Salerno and Mr. Dubee concluded the tree(s) are on the resident's property and not the Borough's.

Mr. Travaglia moved to approve the Work List, seconded by Mrs. Law. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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