

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on March 7, 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. Dave Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Mr. David 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. Salerno moved that the Minutes of the Commission's February 1, 2012 meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. 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.

Mayor Frank Druetzler advised the Commission of the availability of mulch at Watnong Park. The mulch can be picked up at the park or larger amounts of mulch will be delivered to the individual's driveway at no charge. The mulch is the result of branches and trees that came down and were ground by Parsippany at Greystone. The mulch supply is available to Borough residents only.

BUDGET

The Commission Secretary stated there is no update regarding the 2012 budget at this time.

Mayor Druetzler provided commentary in connection with the budget.

Mr. Williams confirmed that the Commission is still at a point where it could spend 25 percent of the submitted budget if need be.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams commented on a letter received from the State.

The Commission Secretary advised the Mayor has requested that she order a copy of the 2007 edition of Trees of New Jersey (street planting trees). The book costs \$6.50, and she will order one copy.

Mr. Williams advised the State was contacted in connection with the reforestation of the Route 53 project. Mayor Druetzler also contacted a person who was able to assist in moving this project along on a timely basis.

Councilwoman Fu commented on the Route 53 reforestation project, including that the Borough is eligible for a \$3,000 grant to apply to a portion of this work involving personnel.

Cross discussion concerning the portion of this project involving personnel, including the possible need to prepare documentation addressing the work that needs to be done and who would be responsible for doing what, consider who would actually be the personnel doing the work, that there is an online guide available, the timeline for the actual reforestation planting work, how many trees are likely to be planted, description of trees that would be planted, who would plant the trees, possible role and responsibility of the County and/or the State in connection with planting, and related matters.

Councilwoman Fu advised a State representative would be available to meet with Borough representatives and/or the Commission members to answer any questions people may have. She provided a map for Commission members to review.

Mrs. Law asked what needs to be done to begin the plan.

Mr. Williams and Councilwoman Fu provided additional information.

Mayor Druetzler advised he was told a letter would be received and there would then be 30 days to respond as to whether it would or would not be done.

Councilwoman Fu offered to contact the State representative and schedule a meeting to have questions answered. Additional information is available online. She will send certain information to the Commission Secretary.

Mr. Salerno commented on this project and provided his thoughts regarding what needs to be done, including his concern regarding development of a Borough Forestry Master Plan. This will need to be a fairly substantial document and needs to be an integral part of the Commission's thought process prior to responding to the State.

Mrs. Law reminded of the importance to respond within 30 days of receipt of the subject letter. She also wanted to know what type of person would be responsible for developing this document (Forestry Master Plan).

Cross discussion about the development of a Forestry Master Plan, including whether the Borough Planner would be able to develop such a plan, availability of guidelines for preparing the grant application and related issues.

Councilwoman Fu advised of the Borough's eligibility to a \$3,000 Green Communities grant that would cover some or all of the costs associated with development of/drawing up the Plan. She offered to assist in completing the grant application.

The Commission Secretary advised that on the Chesterfield sample Forestry Master Plan provided it indicates the plan was "prepared by Forestry Consultant, William F. Brash, Jr., Freehold."

Mr. Dubee advised he works locally with a retired forestry consultant who previously worked with Millburn Township. Perhaps it would be a good idea to contact him regarding his fee, total cost, and what is involved. He offered to contact him and report back to the Commission.

Councilwoman Fu advised she will stay in contact with the Commission in connection with the Forestry Master Plan and the entire project in general. For planting purposes, the dollar amount to be provided is \$300 per tree.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

8 Trowbridge Road – Forester stated that this tree is located in an easement in the rear of the property. Mr. Dubee stated DPW did do some work, and it is the same easement. It is actually 12 Trowbridge Road and backs up to Meadow Bluff. He will double check to be sure this is a Borough tree versus a Parsippany tree. He can check on the appropriate map. It is a large tree. Mr. Salerno provided additional information about the easement location.

19 Maple Avenue – Forester stated (1) 24" to 36" tree needs to be pruned.

11 Sun Valley Way - Forester stated (2) 24"-36" trees in the front yard and (1) 24"-36" tree in the rear need to be pruned.

24 Parker Drive – Forester stated that this was taken care of, it was on an earlier storm damage list.

One Cedar Avenue – Forester stated (1) 36"+ tree has approximately a 10 percent rot at the base. He does not believe anything needs to be done immediately and should be placed on the worksheet to be checked again in the fall. Mr. Williams offered to make this contact with the resident.

Across from 808 Speedwell Avenue – Forester stated the Mayor has requested that (4) 24"-36" locust trees be pruned.

23 Kathleen Place – Forester stated (2) 12" storm-damaged Zelkova trees with tears, should be fertilized to help them heal more quickly.

27 Hawthorne Avenue – Forester stated that this tree is not uprooting. If the resident wants an answer, he can be advised it will be watched and re-evaluated again in the fall. Tree will be placed on worksheet.

59 Winding Way – Forester stated that this is a tree that was planted by the Commission a year or two ago. It was decided the DPW can probably take care of this removal. Mr. Salerno will inform DPW.

Malapardis Rd. - Mr. Salerno stated that there is a tree located in the woody area off Malapardis Road near Jim Fear Drive that is leaning. While it is in the woods, he has concern that it could possibly fall on someone or fall into the street. It was determined that the tree will be taken down and left in the woody area.

Mrs. Law advised she will provide the documentation for review regarding the procedures for the Commission. She will make copies of one procedure for all for the April Commission meeting so it can be discussed. The discussion will probably last about 15 minutes.

The Commission Secretary reviewed the specific work projects to be done. Mr. Salerno moved that the necessary work be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. 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