

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on April 3, 2013 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. Robert Dubee, Forester

Absent: Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman  
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Salerno. Mr. Salerno 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 March 6, 2013 meeting be approved as distributed, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Salerno 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**

The Commission Secretary advised the budget has not yet been approved, but believes it may be approved at the next Governing Body meeting. The current balance for the Commission is \$19,760.

Cross discussion about the anticipated additional funds to be made available to the Commission.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **FORESTER'S REPORT**

Mr. Dubee presented his report to the Commission.

**26 Sun Valley Way** – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree w/stump needs to be removed.

**66 Franklin Place** – Forester stated (1) 12"-24" tree needs to be pruned.

**28 Hillview Avenue** – Forester stated (1) 36"+ tree w/stump need to be taken down.

**6 Sun Valley Way** – Forester stated (3) trees 24" – 36" with 36"+ stumps need to be removed.

**11 Sun Valley Way** – Forester stated (2) trees (1) 24"-36" (1) 36"+ w/stumps need to be removed.

**16 Valley Stream Circle** – (1) 12"-24" tree needs to be pruned

Cross discussion about work continuing on Briarcliff Road.

The Commission Secretary reviewed the locations for work to be done and vouchers to be approved.

Mr. Visscher moved that the work as stated be approved, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Salerno presented a status report on the reforestation project grant. Councilwoman Fu has had several discussions with State personnel in connection with this grant. Appropriate adjustments were made as requested. The final version has now been submitted. For now, the Commission will be awaiting word of approval from the State. A fall planting season is still being planned.

Mrs. Law raised a question about a location that had a tree removed, but no new tree planted. Were the locations on last year's planting list incorporated into the lists of proposed locations in connection with the State funding.

Mr. Salerno stated he is not certain whether this was or was not done. However, he believes this kind of situation could be adjusted at the actual time of planting in the fall.

Mr. Salerno next commented on the second grant which addresses the cost of hiring the professional needed to develop the required plan, stating this matter go before the Council. Councilwoman Fu is coordinating this for presentation to the Council. Once this is approved, the Commission will have 90 days to hire an appropriate professional for this job.

Mr. Salerno asked that Mr. Dubee provide a recommendation on one or more people who the Commission can consider for this project.

Mr. Dubee will explore the possibilities and be back in touch with the Commission in a timely manner.

Cross discussion regarding discussions about the need to hire such a professional held at earlier Commission meetings and the tree species that might be considered for planting.

The Commission Secretary updated the Commission as to the additional responses received from the letter previously sent out to various nurseries. One response was actually a sealed bid.

Mrs. Law raised the subject of the Commission's ongoing review of the Commission procedures. She asked if the Commission should wait until Mr. Williams is back to continue the review. She provided documentation from the March 6, 2013 meeting to the Commission Secretary and one for Councilwoman Fu.

Mr. Travaglia discussed that Foxwood is changing their By-Laws, including that these By-Laws reference a State law that says you must abide by the By-Laws of condominiums given by the State. He wondered if there might be any similar requirement for shade tree commissions in the State.

The decision was made that the Commission would continue its review of the procedures at its next meeting in May 2013.

### **Arbor Day**

The Commission Secretary discussed the plans for the Arbor Day celebration. Mr. Travaglia is the Chairman of this event. The school has requested this event be held on Friday, April 26, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. Trees have been ordered and a letter will be sent inviting the appropriate people to attend. No tree is supplied by the County any longer.

### **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