

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on June 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

Present: Mrs. Margaret Law
Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman
Mr. C. David Visscher
Mr. Lloyd Williams, Chairman
Mr. Robert Dubee, Forester
Councilwoman Laurie Fu
Absent: Mr. Lawrence Travaglia

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

Mrs. Law moved that the minutes of the Commission's April 3, 2013 meeting be approved as distributed, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Salerno arrived 7:15 pm

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.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams advised that the current balance for the Commission is \$8,100.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission Secretary advised she was contacted by a State representative regarding the Emerald Ash tree menace. This problem is not currently in New Jersey, but is beginning to be seen in Pennsylvania. She was told that only one (1) item of equipment would be provided this year and that it will be located at Court Road. It has already been installed. The equipment is an attempt to control the potential tree problem. The equipment is purple.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Cross discussion prior to Mr. Dubee presenting his report to the Commission, including that the Commission Secretary advised that many of the April matters were handled by Mr. David Dubee checking on the situations and faxing in his report. This was done because no Commission meeting was held in May. The April situations as read by the Commission Secretary were:

11 Valley Stream Circle – under 12" tree was pruned and PO.

45 Burch Dr. - One(1) 12"-24" tree w/stump was taken down and PO.

37 Parker Dr. – This is a fallen tree in the back of the park and on the ground; Mr. Salerno will check w/Department of Public Works (DPW) and they may be able handle the work.

51 Hawthorne Ave. – Three (3) 12"-24" locusts tree were taken down and PO. No stumps

23 Malapardis Rd – This tree is to be placed on Worksheet and be re-checked in July.

3 Forest Court – One (1) 12"-24" tree w/stump was taken down and PO.

5 Juniper Drive – Mr. Salerno checked this tree and saw nothing wrong with this tree. .

244 Mountain Way – Two (2) 36"+ stumps have been taken care of and PO.

32 Malapardis Rd – One (1) 24"-36" tree no stump was taken down and one (1) 12"-24" tree and one (1) 24"-36" were pruned and PO.

Forester presented his report.

Drake Way – Forester stated that he visited this site and did not observe any problems at the time. He suggested waiting until foliage comes out so the tree can be properly assessed. A lot of the trees are not on her property, but rather across the street. The resident expressed some concern about these trees since other trees along the roadway had already fallen down. If anything is overhanging the roadway, it would have to be taken care of. They should be placed on the Worksheet and re-checked in July.

Mrs. Law questioned whether the property across the street from this resident is Borough property. No one at the meeting was absolutely certain who owned this property. The answer will have to be determined.

9 Diana Road – Forester stated that the roots along the right side of the driveway have been grinded and PO.

Speedwell Avenue - Friendly's – The Commission Secretary advised the Mayor requested that this site be worked on in preparation for the Memorial Day Parade.

14 and 16 Beaver Ridge Road – Forester stated that two (2) 12"-24" trees between these two properties need to be pruned.

34 Hawthorne Avenue – Forester stated one (1) 24"-36" tree needs to be pruned.

23 Dayton Rd. – Forester stated one (1) 12"-24" tree was pruned and PO.

Borough Hall (Speedwell Avenue) – Forester stated that (1) 36"+ w/stump needs to be taken down.

Borough Hall (Academy Road) - Councilwoman Fu reported there is a second tree near the Borough Hall that should be looked at; it may need to be pruned. To be placed on Worksheet.

30 Janeway Place – Forester stated that one (1) 24"-36" tree w/36"+ stump needs to be taken down. .

9 Malapardis Road – Forester stated that the tree is now gone at this site. It probably was a Borough tree and must have been taken down by the property owner.

85 Malapardis Road – Forester stated that there is a very large limb at this site overhanging the roadway. Removing this limb, however, could create a balance problem for the tree.

Cross discussion, including that it would probably be a good idea to observe this tree for a short time and that the power company will not do any tree trimming at this site since

the limb is not on the wires. Mr. Dubee stated Greenwood will check this situation out. Tree to be placed on Worksheet.

7 Laurel Street – Forester stated that one (1) 12”-24” w/stump needs to be taken down.

40 Parker Drive – Forester stated that there is a tree directly in front of this house that should be taken down, but it is the resident’s tree, not the Borough’s. The Borough tree near the roadway needs elevation; it is 12” - 24”. Mr. Dubee will advise owner.

7 Brook Drive, North – Mr. Visscher received a call about a dead tree at this site. The property owners would like it removed. It is 12” - 24 ”. The Commission Secretary will prepare a memorandum for this site, and Mr. Dubee will check the site.

Councilwoman Fu advised Mr. Dubee that the Mayor mentioned to her about stumps on Hillview Avenue that he would like to have ground out. Sidewalk work will be done in this area and the stumps need to be removed before then.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williams discussed the grant project, advising that two resumes were received for people to conduct the survey.

Councilwoman Fu commented on the resumes received from the two foresters interested in helping the Borough with this survey. She spoke with a forester who is located in Rockaway; she said she was very pleasant. The work that needs to be completed is to write the Community Forestry Management Plan for Morris Plains. The cap for which the State will pay is \$3,000, and it must be completed in 2014. Mr. Dave Dubee suggested the other forester, John Linsom, whose bid is the lower at \$3,500.

Mrs. Law moved that the Commission recommend to the Mayor and Council that the Forester recommended by Mr. Dubee, Shade Tree Department, LLC, be hired to prepare the Borough’s Community Forestry Management Plan, seconded by Mr. Salerno. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Fu will determine what the Commission needs to do to make its formal recommendation to the Governing Body.

The Commission is thinking it will need to provide an official letter to the Governing Body.

Councilwoman Fu advised she does not have an updated/current status on the grant that needs final approval. Depending on when the final approval is secured, will to some degree determine when the planting can be done. Are there efforts that the Commission should be working on now to be prepared for when the final approval is received?

Cross discussion concerning possibly contacting those suppliers who submitted information in response to the letters sent out some time ago asking for the range of prices they could provide, bids versus quotes, and funds that may be available above and beyond the cost of the trees themselves.

The Commission Secretary advised she believes approximately 45 letters were sent out and three or four responses were received. The deadline date for suppliers to provide information was March 31, 2013.

Mr. Salerno stated this letter sending process was not a formal bid process; and stated one of the suppliers who responded was Cerbo.

The Commission Secretary provided some information concerning a supplier who was willing to guarantee for two years and his cost was about \$200 per tree. She believes Cerbo was \$250 per tree.

Councilwoman Fu stated she believes the Commission will have to go through a bid process to finalize this part of the project. She also asked about several parts of the projects that perhaps the Commission should be working on now in preparation for the final approval of the grant.

Cross discussion about the survey done by the Commission members of their individual districts to identify suitable locations for the new trees to be planted; merging of other pertinent information with the survey information; notification of residents before trees are planted; and the impact of storm damage (and possible storm damage) and how that affects property owners' attitudes regarding the planting of trees; and holding off on the bid process until the grant is finally approved. The Commission Secretary was asked to check the form letters she has, specifically to look for one that notifies property owners that a tree is to be planted.

Mrs. Law stated she believes it is rare when a property owner declines a tree to be planted.

Cross discussion about the need for fir trees of some type to be planted in the Briarcliff Road area to provide screening of a parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

