

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on July 3, 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

Mr. Salerno moved that the minutes of the Commission's June 5, 2013 meeting be approved with two revisions: (1) to the last name of the Forester who presented the Forester's Report and (2) adding Mrs. Law back in as "Present", 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. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting to the public.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams advised that the current balance for the Commission is \$3,400.00.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

NO NET LOSS GRANT REPORT

Councilwoman Fu advised she has nothing to report on the status of this grant. She has contacted the Forestry Department and they have no update yet; the grant is still being reviewed. The Borough Council did vote to hire the forestry contractor recommended by the Commission, and the contract paperwork has been sent to him for signing. Once signed, meetings can be held with him in connection with how best to do the plantings. It is anticipated that he will begin working with the Commission in August. The No Net Loss grant is the grant that covers the planting of 400 trees. Formal bids must still be done.

Mr. Williams recommended holding a special meeting in connection with the planting of the 400 trees and establishing the working relationship with the forestry contractor.

Councilwoman Fu stated she believes it is the process that is slowing down the final approval of this grant; it takes a while and there is only a minimal staff.

Mr. Dubee (Forester) arrived 7:18 pm

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

Drake Road – Forester stated that he visited this site, and these trees are across the street from the resident's house on Drake Road. He does not see any immediate problems with these trees right now. He stated that he advised the resident who reported on these trees that he observes no current problem with the trees. There is still uncertainty as to whether the land across the street where the trees are located is Morris Plains property. This needs to be clarified. On the Right-of-Way list, Drake Way is designated as "25' partial length". The right-of-way width is 25'. It was decided to leave this location on the Work List.

Cross discussion about the circumstances that create a potential problem of a tree(s) falling on a neighbor's property as the result of a storm or otherwise and what the consequences could be to all parties. It was pointed out that these situations would not relate to Borough trees, but rather to residents' trees on private property. The point was also raised that while the Commission would not be charged with providing any type of "warning" to residents, there is a possibility that such issues could fall under the heading of property maintenance.

Mr. Salerno advised he will investigate to determine whether dangerous private property trees would fall under the category of property maintenance.

7 Brook Dr. N – Forester stated resident reports a Borough tree is dead and needs to be removed. There was some confusion, concerning the location of this tree; tree to be placed on the worksheet and the chairman will report at the September meeting.

33 Parker Dr. –Forester stated that (1) under 12" & (2) 12"-24" trees need to be pruned.

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

33 Burch Drive – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs pruning and (1) 12"-24" tree w/stump needs to be taken down..

49 Old Wood Road – Forester stated that (2) 12"-24" trees need to be taken down w/stumps.

One Cedar Avenue – Forester stated (1) 24"-36" tree needs to be pruned.

243 Mountain Way – Forester stated (1) 36"+ tree needs to be taken down, the stump does not have to be removed.

24 Jaqui Ave. – Forester stated that (1) 12"-24' tree w/stump needs to be taken down. .

16 Tower Hill Road – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" and (2) 12"-24" trees need to be taken down, leave stumps; and (2) 24"-36" trees need to be pruned. .

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

4 Beaver Ridge Road – Forester stated that resident wants the town tree in front of his home removed due to roots destroying his lawn. The Forester stated that the tree only

needs pruning. Mr. Williams will talk to the resident and this tree should be placed on the work sheet for discussion at the September meeting.

25 Rosedale Avenue - Forester stated this is not a town tree. Mr. Williams will talk to resident.

Speedwell Avenue – Forester stated that the pear tree in front of the Mark’s barber shop needs to be fed, tree is 12”-24”

9 Malapardis Road – Forester stated that (1) tree needs to be pruned and trimmed. There was also discussion about a 24”-36” tree no stump needs to be taken down. Down, The Commission Secretary stated that 9 Malapardis Rd. and 85 Malapardis Road have been purchased ordered.

Borough Hall – Forester stated (1) 12”-24’ tree needs to be pruned.

The Commission Secretary explained that she has recently learned that JCP&L will not respond to a request for tree pruning unless either the Forester is present or a member of the Department of Public Works (DPW) is present. Greenwood will now contact the utility company and request the work that is needed and everything will be taken care of at one time.

The Forester stated that this procedure is effect already

Mr. Salerno moved that the discussed work be placed on the Work List and for vouchering, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Salerno advised that Mr. Travaglia is requesting that a tree be planted in a specific location at Foxwood where a tree in an island was knocked down. This would be a tree from the No Net Loss tree planting project.

It was decided to put this on the No Net Loss list for possible consideration.

The Commission Secretary mentioned that she observed that a parking lot in Morristown has trees planted within the sections of the parking lot. Perhaps some of the No Net Loss trees could be planted in somewhat less traditional locations. It is the lot where the Farmers Market is held.

OLD 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
Recording Secretary

