

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on October 2, 2013 7:00 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  
Mr. Robert Dubee, Forester  
Councilwoman Laurie Fu

### **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. Travaglia moved that the minutes of the Commission's September 4, 2013 meeting be approved, 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.

### **REPORT OF COUNCILWOMAN FU**

Councilwoman Fu thanked everyone who assisted in getting the Request for Quotes sent out last week. Three responses have been received so far.

Cross discussion relating to the quotes received thus far, including species of trees to be ordered; acceptability of various species; issue(s) relating to information contained on quotes; cost estimates for trees and planting; and the need to clarify to certain information provided. Mr. Williams will verify the information provided by one or more of those responding.

Councilwoman Fu advised that the Commission's selection from the Request for Quotes process must be presented to the Borough Council with a recommendation from the Commission.

Mr. Salerno moved that the Commission recommend the acceptance of the proposal received from Cerbo's Nursery, seconded by Mr. Travaglia. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilwoman Fu reported she has not heard back yet from Mr. Linton regarding his suggestion of conducting the tree survey during October. She plans to wait one more week before she give him a call. Councilwoman Fu suggested discussing what needs to happen next since the Commission will not meet again until early November.

Mr. Williams replied they should get together next week once the Council has approved their proposal recommendation to develop a time table for the activities that need to be performed. As a result of their tree planting survey, 42 trees would be planted; however, there have been 9 to 10 rejections of trees being planted. He believes 9 to 10 other locations can be identified.

Councilwoman Fu provided some information concerning the process relating to the costs that will be reimbursed under the State grant.

Mr. Williams reported the tree issue at 37 Burch Drive has been resolved – they just want to move it over and Maple trees are fine.

## **BUDGET**

Mr. Williams asked for an update on budget matters from Councilwoman Fu.

Councilwoman Fu advised that approximately \$20,000 was transferred from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds.

Mr. Williams reminded that the Commission had put a hold on their purchase orders at the last meeting.

Councilwoman Fu reported on the purchase vouchers.

Mr. Williams stated that then the Commission can release these purchase orders, correct.

Councilwoman Fu will follow up on this to determine what they will do. She also advised of a message from the Mayor today regarding 80 Maple Avenue and a fir tree. The Mayor thought Mr. Salerno could take a look at it and contact the resident.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **FORESTER'S REPORT**

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

**Beaver Ridge Road** – Resident needs to be contacted. This matter concerns destruction being done to his lawn by roots. Mr. Williams will follow up.

**Drake Way** – These trees are part of a forest area, and Mr. Dubee stated he did not see any problem. The decision was made to remove this from the worksheet

**7 Brook Drive, North** – No tree problem was seen at this site, and it was removed from the worksheet.

**66 Franklin Place** – Forester stated that this is a plum tree located on Mountain Way. Forester stated that the tree has low limbs that obstructs the sidewalk and needs to be elevated. .

**40 Janeway Place** – Forester stated that this tree needs pruning.

**9 Malapardis Road** – This tree required additional pruning that was done; remove from worksheet. .

**23 Malapardis Road** – This tree seems to be dying. Mr. Dubee recommends checking it again in the spring. To be placed on worksheet.

**Sunset Road** – Forester stated that (1) 12"-24" tree needs to be pruned.

**44 Washington Avenue** – This is not a Borough tree; the resident will be informed this is not a Borough tree.

**End of Washington Avenue, Corner of Grannis Avenue** – This is a very large tree that is dying and unfortunately will probably have to be taken down. Mr. Salerno commented that there are three trees at this site that have problems; two of the trees are not Borough trees. He needs to know which of these three trees is the Borough tree.

Mr. Dubee stated the Borough tree is on the Washington Avenue side.

Mr. Salerno advised there are two huge trees on this side; one is the Borough tree, the other is not a Borough tree. Both are in very poor shape. The one that is the furthest from Greystone is the Borough tree. The one back up toward the corner is not a Borough tree. He offered to meet Mr. Dubee at this site to check these trees again. He will advise the resident(s) of the trees that are not Borough trees and belong to them.

**Mountain Way and Sylvan Drive** – Mr. Salerno mentioned a tree that Mr. Steve Welsh has complained about; however, he does not see any problem with the tree that Mr. Welsh has complained about.

Mr. Dubee advised he did see a tree that looks like it is dead in the area of Mr. Welsh's property.

Cross discussion about the tree issues near Mr. Welsh's property in an attempt to absolutely identify the trees being talked about by Mr. Dubee and by Mr. Salerno; the area near the pumping station; and whether any or all of the trees are Borough trees.

The Commission Secretary advised that she needs to know if this is the same tree that Mr. Dave Dubee wrote down on her sheet as being at the corner of Mountain Way and Sylvan Drive. There is no memorandum for it, Mr. Dubee stated the dead tree is a Maple tree, 24" with a sump of 24" to 36". She is thinking this must be the same tree.

Mr. Williams stated that nothing will be done with the tree called in by Mr. Welsh. He will be notified of this decision.

**21 Davis Avenue** – Forester stated that (1) 12"-24" tree needs to be pruned.

**10 Cutler Rd.** – Forester stated that (1) under 12" needs to be taken down w/stump.

**10 Wynwood Rd.** – Forester stated that (2) 36"+ trees need to be pruned.

**14 Wynwood Rd.** - Forester stated that (1) 12"- 24" needs to be taken down w/stump.

**15 Glenbrook Road** – Mr. Salerno stated that Councilman Karr received the call on this tree. This is not a Borough tree. Mr. Salerno advised Councilman Karr of this, and he will contact the resident.

**Watnong Park** – Forester stated that (1) 36"+ hickory tree near playground needs to be taken down w/stump and (1) 12"- 24" tree needs pruning.

**24 Leamoor Drive** – Forester stated that (1) 24"-36" leader of a Tulip tree needs to be removed.

**10 Kathleen Place** – Forester stated (1) 12" to 24" stump needs grinding.

**24 Beaver Ridge Road** – Forester stated (1) 12"-24" needs to be taken down w/stump.

**39 Janeway Place** – Forester stated that (1) 12"-24" needs to be taken down w/stump

Brief cross discussion about the Janeway Place tree(s) as the observation of one or more Commission members is that no take-down tree(s) is recalled.

The Commission Secretary will price out the cost of the work recommended by Mr. Dave Dubee.

Mr. Salerno suggested making a motion to approve the work pending the determination of available funds.

Mr. Salerno moved that this work be approved, pending the determination of funds, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

The Commission Secretary advised of some work requested by the Mayor in the area of Briarcliff Road and at Watnong Park. She believes the total cost of this work is approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000. She is uncertain of what budget these expenses will be taken from.

Councilwoman Fu will check this and get back to the Commission Secretary.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Williams stated he believes that everything has been taken care of or will soon be taken care of in connection with the State grant for tree planting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Williams raised the matter of a tree located at Juniper Drive and Mountain Way. This has been discussed in the past. It is a very large tree that really obstructs the view when exiting from Juniper Drive; you cannot see up Mountain Way.

Mrs. Law stated it is actually a shrub, not a tree.

Cross discussion about what the Borough ordinance allows as to height permitted; his previous contact(s) with the resident on whose property this shrub sits; and possibly involving the Borough committee that handles safety regulations (Ralph Rotando is in charge of this group), but this is unlikely due to prior interactions between the property owner and this group.

Mr. Williams read from a Resolution that is “on the books” that states if the Shade Tree Commission determines that a tree located in the right of way needs to be removed, a Notice of Tree Removal will be sent to property owner advising of this fact. He recommended that this Notice of Tree Removal as contained in the Resolution be sent to this property owner.

Mrs. Law asked if it is within 10’.

Mr. Salerno stated he is unsure if it is within 10’. It is in the sight triangle.

Mrs. Law said then it would be an ordinance matter.

Mr. Williams explained that the road was cut back. When this shrub was planted, it was in. The road was then reconfigured which is why this shrub now falls within the jurisdiction of the Commission, at least in his opinion.

Mr. Salerno stated he does not remember this, but he does know this is a sight line problem.

Cross discussion about this shrub problem, including pointing out that there are other corner areas in the Borough that contain obstructing plantings, too. This is a cascading issue and no doubt will be pointed out by this resident located at Juniper Drive and Mountain Way. Not all such corner areas are equally as obstructive, though.

Mr. Salerno thought the letter could be sent from the Shade Tree Commission and see what the reaction is. The Commission can then go from there.

Mr. Williams wondered if this shrub could be pruned to solve the issue of it obstructing the roadways.

Mrs. Law moved that the Juniper Drive/Mountain Way property owner be sent the “Notice of Tree Removal” letter, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.** The tree/shrub will be removed by the Commission.

There being no further business, Mr. Travaglia moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Salerno. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Karen M. Coffey  
Commission Secretary

Maureen Sullivan  
Recording Secretary

