

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Shade Tree Commission held on December 4, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Borough Chambers. Present at roll call were:

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

Absent: Mr. Donald Salerno, Vice Chairman

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 November 6, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

FALL PLANTING

Mr. Williams reported that the Fall Planting trees have been planted. A total of 58 trees were planted. Only a few changes needed to be made during this process. The last tree was planted yesterday. He spoke about issues such as water lines in connection with water sprinkling; he believes one sprinkler system line that was in the right of way may have been cut. Information on sprinkler water lines probably should be included in the letters the Commission is planning to send at some point in 2014 as should issues relating to the "invisible fence" lines in connection with dog training/ownership. There may be other subjects that will need to be included, too.

Mr. Williams advised of updated information he received from the contractor in connection with the watering of the new trees. Apparently, the watering will not be necessary. Since the contractor is guaranteeing the trees, he surely must know what he is talking about on this subject and also added that they will be dormant now.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Mr. Dubee presented his report.

The Commission Secretary advised that everything is on hold for now. There are work projects included on the current Work Sheet.

83 Maple Avenue – Forester provided information and advised this has been purchase ordered. The work was completed last month.

4 Forest Drive/Jim Fear Drive – Forester advised this is an incorrect address; it is actually located on Jim Fear Drive, right across the street from the Community Center. Two tree (1) 12”-24” and (1) 24”-36” need to be takedown. This work will be placed on the Work Sheet. .

Councilwoman Fu had to leave the meeting at this point.

32 Janeway Place – Forester stated that (1) 12”-24” tree w/stump needs to be taken down. Forester explained that at this location there will be a problem with water pipes/water main. There was some cross discussion about this request, including that as a rule the Commission does not generally take down a tree because someone requests it; that permission might be given to the resident take it down himself; and that Mr. Dubee will check out this situation. He requested that it be placed on the Work Sheet.

5 Cutler Road - Forester stated that (1) 24”-36” tree needs to be pruned, a large dead branch is hanging over the resident’s home in a dangerous way. Mr. Williams will check this situation. Tree to be placed on worksheet.

69 Watnong Drive - Forester stated that a tree was taken down at this location and the equipment used damaged the driveway. The damage was repaired.

Mr. Travaglia moved that the work placed on the Work Sheet be approved, seconded by Mr. Visscher. Voice vote. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

2014 BUDGET

Mr. Williams advised he has discussed the budget with Councilwoman Fu; together they decided to maintain the same level of budget allocations as for 2013, which totals \$68,000. He expressed some concern that more work than usual may have to be done based on the recommendations that are expected from Mr. Linson. He also stated that the original budget that was passed was \$43,000, but this is the amount that was given. He suspects there are funds related to storm damage embedded in the 2014 budget.

2014 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR

Mr. Williams requested that the Commission meeting now scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2014 to Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

The Commission Secretary stated she will place a notice in the Daily Record stating the date change. She distributed a proposed schedule for February 2014 through January 2015 Commission meetings which the Commission reviewed.

General cross discussion about the 2014 budget and various tree plantings.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Williams advised about discussions with Mr. Linson. He spent two days traveling through the Borough. He suspects there will be a recommendation that a lot of work should be done. Many trees will probably need to come down and significant pruning probably will be required. When his report is received, decisions can be made.

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