

Township of Franklin, Somerset County, N.J. - Shade Tree Commission

Meeting minutes February 27, 2014

Present: Christopher Williams-Chair, Jean Ambrose-VC, Jason Harkins, Carl Hauck, Robert Hudak, Sara Malone, Carol Parker, Arnold Schmidt
Absent: Jeff Baumley

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes, January 2014 – C. Williams motioned, S. Malone 2nd amended as follows:

- Old Business item #1 replacing A. Schmidt with C. Hauck
- Rewording of old business item #3 and addition of Greg Pinheiro's full name
- Add "hazardous" to old business item #4.

Old Business

1. JFK Blvd tree plantings – J. Ambrose prepared write-up of the tree planting project on JFK Blvd. that was published on the front page of the Franklin Reporter webpage, <http://franklinreporter.com/>. Initially featured on front page of website.
2. Tree City Recertification – C. Williams completed and submitted application.
3. Dead hazardous limb in Thompson Park (Middlebush Road) has been reported by C. Hauck but has not been removed by Somerset County.

No update to report.

4. Tree Sale –
 - a. Discussed Tree Planting Instructions, modifications include:
 - i. Add red color "tape" graphic to all tree graphics for consistency.
 - ii. Address question of how long trees can be stored prior to planting.
 - iii. Address comment regarding specific width of planting hole.
Action Item: J. Ambrose, J. Baumley, and J. Harkins to coordinate revisions.
 - b. C. Williams still accepting tree sales

New Business

1. Community Forestry Master Plan (CFMP) discussion with Consultant, Les Alpaugh and Andy Alpaugh of ForesTree Consultants (FTC),
 - a. General discussion of the 5 year CFMP including:
 - i. Review of the information provided to the Consultant by the Franklin STC. Revisions/Additions include:
 1. FTC directed to find current Master Plan on the Franklin Township website, <http://www.franklintwpnj.org/>
 2. Annual Reports needed for years 2009 – 2013.

Action Item: C. Williams to provide to FTC if available.

3. List of names to be included in CFMP to be modified to replace Victor Stevens with C. Hauck as the Director of Public Works.
 - ii. Discussion of possible community forestry programs/events to be included in CFMP and current maintenance and tree planting programs.
- b. FTC (L. Alpaugh) requested a “ride around” Franklin Township with shade tree commission members to become more familiar with Franklin Township and existing trees.

Action Item: S. Malone to coordinate “ride around” with Consultant and shade tree commission members interested in attending.

2. Financial Report discussion postponed to next meeting.
3. Arbor Day Celebration – Discussion regarding an event with a local school (Pine Ridge/ Hill Crest)

Action Item: S. Malone/ C. Parker to head coordination for Event.
4. 220 Davidson Avenue – Significant tree loss/removal brought to the attention of the STC.

Action Item: C. Hauck to investigate further.

Public Discussion

No public was present.

Dendrology

Was not discussed

Adjournment:

8:52 PM

S. Malone motioned, J. Ambrose 2nd

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins
Secretary