

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

### Meeting minutes March 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 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes, February 2014 – A. Schmidt motioned, S. Malone 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Old Business

1. “Ride Along” with STC – C. Hauck and C. Parker went with Les Alpaugh for riding tour of Franklin Township to help develop Consultant’s understanding of the existing tree inventory within the Township. Conversation during “Ride Along included:
  - a. Suggest adding statement to Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) regarding volume of Hurricane Sandy tree damage within the Township.  

**Action Item:** C. Hauck to quantify Hurricane Sandy damage for inclusion in CFMP.
  - b. Les noticed issues with tree pruning performed within the Township. Suggestion made to setup tree pruning training/classes for DPW staff responsible for tree maintenance.
2. Dead hazardous limb in Thompson Park (Middlebush Road) has been reported by C. Hauck multiple times to Somerset County. As of this meeting, tree limb has not been removed by Somerset County.
3. Tree Sale – Of the 80 trees ordered 47 have been sold. Pickup of trees purchased is scheduled for Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1 pm.
  - a. Six of the trees not purchased will be planted as part of the Arbor Day Celebration (4 maples and 2 magnolias)
  - b. Portion of trees not purchased are scheduled to be planted in the Memorial Forest.
  - c. 5 elm trees to be planted at Kiosk  

**Action Item:** C. Williams to advise Open Space Committee (OSC) that extra tree sale trees will be planted in the Memorial Forest. Note: Given short timeframe to install bare root trees, trees may already be planted before next OSC meeting.

**Action Item:** J. Harkins to fix typo in planting instructions and print copies for distribution.
4. Financial Report: \$82,000+ currently in the tree fund.
5. Arbor Day Celebration (4/25/14) – S. Malone/ C. Parker in the process of meeting with representatives from Franklin Park School and Pine Grove Manor School. Program tentatively consists of the following:
  - a. 3 planting locations at each school (3 classes can participate in the planting of trees).

- b. Teachers can incorporate watering/maintenance and growth of each tree into the curriculum.
- c. Press release after the event (Courier News, Franklin Reporter and Advocate, Home News, Star Ledger).
- d. S. Malone distributed a draft of the Arbor Day Proclamation.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to make revisions suggested by STC members and submit to C. Hauck prior to 4/11/14 for adding to next Council Meeting Agenda.

### **New Business**

1. CFMP – S. Malone distributed copies of the draft CFMP prepared by ForesTree Consultants (FTC), dated March 21, 2014. After review and comment phase, final version is tentatively scheduled to be completed by July 2014.

**Action Item:** STC Members to review and markup draft CFMP with comments for the April 2014 STC Meeting. S. Malone to coordinate providing comments to FTC for incorporation into the document.

(NOTE: Suggested that STC members review of draft CFMP include

2. Site Plan Review Status: C. Hauck indicated that Township in the process of amending Town Code Chapter 222: Trees with respect to the review of site plan applications by the STC. A. Schmidt suggested he would approach the Environmental Commission with the idea that STC members could attend Environmental Commission (EC) meetings to review site plans with us. The review would be for what trees would be planted and where they would be planted. The EC would take the STC comments into consideration when submitting our comments. STC Members agreed to hold off contacting the EC until the revisions to Town Code Chapter 222 are available for public comment.
3. Tree Planting:
  - a. A. Schmidt suggested requesting a meeting with the Open Space committee to summarize STC's plans for future tree planting projects and discuss opinions/suggestions for OSC.

### **Public Discussion**

No public was present.

### **Dendrology**

Was not discussed

### **Adjournment:**

9:15 PM

J. Ambrose motioned, C. Williams 2<sup>nd</sup>

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins  
Secretary