

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

### Meeting minutes September 25, 2014

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes, July 2014 – J. Ambrose motioned, S. Malone 2<sup>nd</sup>, minutes unanimously approved as written.

### Old Business

1. CFMP: S. Malone reported on the receipt of comments of Township Representatives. Minor comments received from Mark Healey, Township Planning Director, and incorporated into document. C. Williams motioned approval of CFMP as amended, J. Ambrose 2<sup>nd</sup>, and unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to coordinate revisions with consultant and acquiring copies of final CFMP and send to Mayor for signature before submission of CFMP to the State Forester.

2. Tree Sale 2015: General Discussion of Progress. Proposing installation of a plywood sign advertising tree sale on Municipal Complex property. C. Williams suggested installing another sign at the corner of Cedar Grove Lane and Amwell.

C. Williams indicated that for last year's tree sale the Town Clerk received checks from residents and posted checks directly into shade tree fund and C. Williams collected order forms from STC Mailbox.

All members present agreed to the tree selection and pricing as follows:

- a. Trees:
  - i. Shade Trees: October Glory Red Maple, Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple, Heritage River Birch, Thornless Honeylocust, London Plane Tree
  - ii. Ornamental Trees: Redbud, Rutgers Hybrid Venus Flowering Dogwood, Prairie Fire Crabapple.
- b. Pricing:
  - i. Shade Trees: \$50 ea., 2 for \$90, 3 for \$130.
  - ii. Ornamental Trees: \$45 ea., 2 for \$85, 3 for \$125.

Planning for tree pickup day scheduled for March/April 2015 to be discussed at future meeting.

### **Action Items:**

- C. Parker to coordinate creation of Tree Sale signage. R. Hudak to assist.
- J. Harkins to revise website documents per comments received and coordinate with help desk for posting of Tree Sale content to the township website.
- J. Ambrose to coordinate education component.

- R Hudak to coordinate newsletter Ads.
3. Tree Guards: Have been delivered and installed on all trees planted by the Township within the past two years.

### **New Business**

1. Update on communications with M. Healey, Township Planning Director, indicate that the tree ordinance is being revised such that STC will not review plans submitted to the town as part of site plan applications.
2. Commission is reminded that C. Williams is the contact person for correspondence with Township Representatives/Officials.
3. General Discussion of B. Chesner tree planting project (See public discussion below). Since small stock (whips) are usually sold in large bundles, C. Williams mentioned caring for extra trees purchased for B. Chesner's project but not used for possible planting by the STC for Arbor Day 2015.

S. Malone motioned to approve support of Eagle Scout Project presented to commission by Brandon Chesner for the supply of trees by the STC up to the value of \$100.00, J. Ambrose, 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

### **Public Discussion**

Brandon Chesner of Hillsborough requested STC provide trees for his Eagle Scout project to plant a 32' x 32' plot of trees with the goal of having trees available for planting throughout Franklin Township. B Chesner anticipated the township maintaining the plot of trees. B. Chesner requested STC provide the trees for this project. This project has been approved by the Open Space Committee.

J. Baumley suggested Brandon try a smaller scale project such as selecting a spot in the Township and plant specific trees (purchased through the STC).

Following presentation, C. Williams motioned to close meeting to the public, S. Malone 2<sup>nd</sup>., unanimously approved.

### **Dendrology**

Discussion of bagworm effects on Spruce/Arborvitae and stresses that can increase susceptibility such as drought.

### **Adjournment:**

9:44 PM

S. Malone motioned, J. Ambrose, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins  
Secretary