

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

### Meeting Minutes July 23, 2015

Present: Sara Malone-VC, Jason Harkins, Carl Hauck, Carol Parker, Arnold Schmidt, Robert Hudak

Excused Absent: Christopher Williams-Chair, Jeff Baumley

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm

Treasurer's Report: Shade Tree fund has reduced to \$127,010.15 following purchase of trees for Middlebush Park Planting Project.

Approval of Minutes:

- May 2015 – R. Hudak motioned, A. Schmidt 2<sup>nd</sup>, minutes unanimously approved.
- June 2015 – A. Schmidt motioned, R. Hudak 2<sup>nd</sup>, minutes unanimously approved.

### Old Business

1. Shade Tree Commission (STC) Open Position: No update.

**Action Items:** R. Hudak to include ad for STC open position in September issue of Franklin Times. J Harkins to coordinate upload of STC open position ad to website.

2. CFMP - Hazard Tree Identification Project: No update this month.

3. CFMP – Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant Application: No update this month.

4. CEU Standings: No update this month, acceptance of CEU credits pending.

5. Proposed Tree Plantings

a. High School – September 11, 2015: No update this month on status. R. Hudak has documented the condition of the 9/11 trees/plaque at each of the Franklin Schools with the exception of one, and will bring findings to the STC when completed.

b. Samson G. Smith School – Arbor Day 2016: No update this month.

c. Causeway Project (PSE&G) – meeting held 6/18 to discuss PSE&G's reason are requirements for pruning trees around power lines. Revegetation project also discussed. STC members were not present in the meeting, but will need to remain in the loop for review of the revegetation plan.

**Action Item:** C. Williams to coordinate access to future revegetation plan.

d. Memorial Forest Planting Plan: STC would like to review the original plans for the Memorial Forest to assist in planning for future phased tree plantings.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to coordinate with C. Hauck to secure a copy of the original planting plan and any subsequent revisions.

6. Tree Planting and Maintenance Updates
  - a. JFK Blvd. Tree Replacement Program: No update this month.
  - b. Arbor Day 2015/ Negri Nepote Tree Planting: No update this month.
  - c. Middlebush Park Tree Planting: No update this month.
7. Annual Tree Sale 2016: General discussion of progress and early advertisement.

**Action Item:** R. Hudak to coordinate placing ad in September issue of Franklin Times mentioning the upcoming tree sale for 2016, and directing residents to check the STC website for updates.

### **New Business**

1. Causeway Project: General discussion of meeting minutes from June 18<sup>th</sup> Causeway Project meeting.
2. Franklin Day Festival Opportunity: A. Schmidt discussed that the Environmental Commission (EC) was invited to have a table to display brochures, handouts, etc. but the EC does not have materials prepared to attend this year. A. Schmidt suggested Environmental Commission, STC and other committees share table space for future Franklin Day Festivals.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to formally request STC usage of the EC's table at the Franklin Day Festival for displaying STC materials.
3. Hazard Trees (To be coordinated with C. Hauck):
  - a. Wells Fargo Beech (Corner of Bennetts Lane and Rte. 27): Tree is dead and should be removed.
  - b. Dead Oaks (Amwell Rd., across from Stage House Tavern): J. Baumley noted in an email to S. Malone that two (2) dead oaks should be removed.
  - c. Zelkovas planted in memorial forest require straightening (Coordinate with C. Hauck)
4. Emerald Ash Borer: STC members to research current positions of establishments such as Rutgers, Invasives Striketeam, Etc. STC will add important EAB links to the STC website.

**Action Items:** S. Malone to research Rutgers EAB information. J. Harkins to research Invasive Striketeam information

### **Public Discussion**

William Corwin, Leif Erikson Avenue, Griggstown. Mr. Corwin asked if the Township or the STC are looking at measures to respond to the Emerald Ash Borer disease. STC's response was that currently a plan is not in place. Mr. Corwin explained inquiries he has made into mechanical treatment of trees at \$500.00 per tree. General discussion of current recommendations from Rutgers's. STC will further research EAB and provide information on STC website for residents.

### **Dendrology**

None discussed this month

**Adjournment:**

8:45 PM

C. Parker motioned, R. Hudak 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins

Secretary