

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

Meeting Minutes January 28, 2016

Present: Christopher Williams-Chair, Sara Malone-Vice Chair, Jason Harkins, Carl Hauck, Arnold Schmidt, Robert Hudak, Carol Parker

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

First order of business was to elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2016.

- C. Parker motioned to elect S. Malone as Chair, C. Williams 2nd, unanimous vote in favor, S. Malone abstained.
- A. Schmidt motioned to elect C. Parker as Vice-Chair, C. Williams 2nd, unanimous vote in favor, C. Parker abstained.
- S. Malone motioned to reelect J. Harkins as Secretary, R. Hudak 2nd, unanimous vote in favor, J. Harkins abstained.
- S. Malone appointed Chair and C. Parker appointed as Vice Chair for 2016 and J. Harkins reappointed as Secretary for 2016.

NOTE: After 15 years of service to the Franklin STC, Jeff Baumley resigned from the STC at the end of 2015. We thank him for his dedication and service to the community.

STC Member Status: S. Malone motioned to move J. Harkins from alternate member status to full member of STC, C. Williams 2nd, unanimous vote in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

- November 2015 – A. Schmidt motioned, C. Williams 2nd, minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Current Shade Tree Fund Balance = \$136,153.25, no expenditures recorded since last meeting.

Old Business

1. Shade Tree Commission (STC) Open Position: No update this month. Ads to be updated to include need for Tree expert or tree related experience.
2. CFMP - Hazard Tree Identification Project: S. Malone has provided consultant with .shp files needed to develop proposal to perform Tree Survey. General discussion of specifics to include in consultant's proposal for tree survey.
3. CFMP – Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant Application: No update this month.
4. CEU Standings: S. Malone needs total number of CEU's completed for yearly report by February.

5. Proposed Tree Planting
 - a. Franklin Township High School: No update this month.
 - b. Samson G. Smith School: No update this month.
 - c. Hamilton Street Redevelopment: No update this month.
 - d. PSE&G Scenic Byway & Causeway Revegetation: No update this month.
6. Tree Planting and Maintenance Updates
 - a. JFK Blvd. Tree Replacement Program: Planting scheduled for Spring 2016, B&B trees.
 - b. Arbor Day 2015/ Negri Nepote Tree Planting: Plantings have been mulched, item completed.
 - c. Memorial Forest: Zelkovas have been straightened, 10 additional trees remain to be planted.
 - d. Hazard Trees:
 - i. Wells Fargo Beech: Has been cut down.
 - ii. Dead Oaks near Stage House Tavern on Amwell Rd.: To be evaluated during Spring 2016.
 - iii. Veterinary Hospital, 4222 Route 27: To be evaluated during Spring 2016.
7. Annual Tree Sale 2016:
 - a. 22 Trees sold to date.
 - b. Tree Sale orders scheduled to end 3/15/16.

Action Item: R. Hudak to coordinate with C. Hauck for scheduling tree delivery/pickup with convenience center schedule.

8. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): No update this month.

Action Item: J. Harkins to coordinate adding State EAB link to EAB tab on website.

New Business

1. Annual Shade Tree Commission Election: Completed, see above.
2. Approve Next Year's meeting dates: Completed during previous meeting.
3. Green Team representative and iTree Canopy: General discussion of S. Malone involvement as the STC's green team representative. General discussion of iTree Canopy's capabilities in estimating a town's percentage of tree canopy. Franklin Township is currently shown as 39.8% tree canopy. The American Forestry Society's recommendation is 40-50% tree canopy for "suburban" classification.
4. Commendation for Jeff Baumley's service to STC:

Action Item: A. Schmidt to contact Councilman Chase.

Public Discussion

No public present.

Dendrology

None

Adjournment:

8:40 PM

C. Williams motioned, A. Schmidt 2nd.

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins

Secretary