

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

Meeting Minutes March 24, 2016

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

Absent: Carl Hauck

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm

Approval of Minutes:

- January 2016 – S. Malone motioned, A. Schmidt 2nd, minutes unanimously approved as amended.
- February 2016 – A. Schmidt motioned, C. Williams 2nd, minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: No change.

Old Business

1. Shade Tree Commission (STC) Open Position: R. Hudak sent out e-mail request to residents that have purchased trees this year, no response as of this meeting.
2. CFMP - Hazard Tree Identification Project: S. Malone reported that Consultant is going to reevaluate method to develop a more cost effective procedure for performing hazard tree identification.

Action Item: S. Malone to coordinate revised fee with Consultant.

3. CFMP – Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant Application: S. Malone has started preparing application and will be speaking with Town Manager regarding suggestion for help writing grants.
4. CEU Standings: 2015 CEU's approved. 2016 CEU opportunities include the i-Tree Canopy workshop, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshop.
5. Green Team and i-Tree Canopy – S. Malone is currently drafting resolution to bring before the Town Council indicating proposed tree canopy goal of 42%, currently 39% tree canopy within Township. S. Malone indicated needing to prepare of summary of STC's current public outreach (STC website, EAB, tree sale/signs, Franklin Day, etc.)

Action Item: STC Members to send detailed information via email for outreach summary to S. Malone for compiling (Subject: Green Team")

6. Jeff Baumley Service Recognition – A. Schmidt provided certificate templates.

Action Item: A. Schmidt/R. Hudak to revise certificate for Jeff's service recognition.

7. Proposed Tree Planting

- a. Franklin Township High School: No update this month.

- b. Hamilton Street Redevelopment (HSR): Vince Dominach and HSR Consultant scheduled to present current progress of project and are interested in STC providing guidance on tree selection/placement.
 - c. PSE&G Scenic Byway & Causeway Revegetation: No update this month.
 - d. Middlebush Park – General discussion of tentatively scheduling a site visit at park to layout tree locations prior to planting.
8. Tree Planting and Maintenance Updates
- a. JFK Blvd. Tree Replacement Program: No update this month.
 - b. Memorial Forest: No update this month.
 - c. Hazard Trees:
 - i. Wells Fargo Beech: Has been cut down.
 - ii. Dead Oaks near Stage House Tavern on Amwell Rd.: No update this month, trees to be evaluated during Spring 2016.
 - iii. Veterinary Hospital, 4222 Route 27: No update this month.
9. Annual Tree Sale 2016:
- a. 45 Trees sold to date.
 - b. C. Williams to provide Arbor Day Flag.
 - c. Tree Sale pickup scheduled for 4/9/16.
10. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): EAB website links have been updated.

New Business

- 1. Arbor Day 2016: General Discussion regarding planting a tree a Middlebush Park/handing out seedlings on 4/30/16 at Middlebush Park.

Action Item: S. Malone/C. Parker to coordinate with C. Hauck to determine the logistics of planting a tree for Arbor Day in Middlebush Park.

Public Discussion

1 resident in attendance

- Jerry Grandjean, Canal Road – Interested in Franklin’s current position on EAB, suggested planning for removal of affected trees should occur soon after tree shows signs of EAB. STC indicated currently working to retain a Consultant to perform a hazard tree ID, possibly including a specific cataloging of Ash Trees. STC also indicated current measures are in place to retain tree removal firms to remove dead/hazard trees in a timely manner.

Dendrology

None

Adjournment:

8:49 PM

A. Schmidt motioned, C. Williams 2nd.

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins

Secretary