

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

### Meeting Minutes April 28, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Secretary's Report (Approval of Minutes):

- March 2016 – S. Malone motioned, A. Schmidt 2<sup>nd</sup>, minutes unanimously approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance of shade tree fund is \$93,409.90.

**Action Item:** STC members need to provide Carol with number of in kind hours spent on STC related tasks.

### Old Business

1. Shade Tree Commission (STC) Open Position: No update this month.
2. CFMP - Hazard Tree Identification Project: S. Malone has been working with Consultant regarding hazardous tree identification proposal. According to Consultant, Rutgers has completed an Ash survey for several town's to date, except for Franklin. Consultant is looking into why Rutgers did not evaluate Ash's within Franklin Township, and if they plan to or will consider it. S. Malone has requested that the Consultant provide proposal for just the Hazardous Tree Identification work, and the Ash evaluation can be revisited.
3. CFMP – Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant Application: S. Malone submitted a grant application for \$25,000.
4. CEU Standings: No update this month.
5. Green Team and i-Tree Canopy – No update this month.
6. Jeff Baumley Service Recognition – No update this month.
7. Proposed Tree Planting
  - a. Franklin Township High School: No update this month.
  - b. Hamilton Street Redevelopment (HSR): No update this month, Vince Dominach and HSR Consultant unable to attend tonight's meeting.
  - c. PSE&G Scenic Byway & Causeway Revegetation: C. Williams forwarded minutes of recent meeting to S. Malone, there does not appear to be a current need for STC's involvement in the project.

- d. Middlebush Park – Planting of first 40 trees scheduled to begin tomorrow, April 29<sup>th</sup>, planting to be focused on trees along access road.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to contact Mark Healey regarding STC's availability to review plans in the future such as the tree planting for Middlebush Park.

8. Tree Planting and Maintenance Updates

- a. JFK Blvd. Tree Replacement Program: Trees to be delivered shortly.
- b. Memorial Forest: Trees scheduled to be planted tomorrow, April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Hazard Trees: S. Malone reported that the County Health Dep't is in the process of revising the procedures for reporting hazardous trees, to be discussed when procedures become available.
  - i. Dead Oaks near Stage House Tavern on Amwell Rd.: No update this month.
  - ii. Veterinary Hospital, 4222 Route 27: No update this month.

9. Annual Tree Sale 2016:

- a. 53 trees sold of the 63 total trees ordered.
- b. Remainder of trees to be planted in the Memorial Forest by Public Works staff.

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

**New Business**

1. Arbor Day 2016: S. Malone motioned, C. Parker 2<sup>nd</sup> unanimously approved to plant the 10 unsold trees from tree sale as Arbor Day event.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to prepare proclamation for Arbor Day for submitting to Town Council for adoption.

2. Princeton International School Inquiry: S. Malone received an email from Michelle Tan who operates an international school in Princeton that will be moving to Kingston. A student within the school is interested in coordinating a tree planting as an effort to embrace the school's new community.

**Action Item:** S. Malone to coordinate with Student.

**Public Discussion**

1 resident in attendance

- Tom Gale, Ford Avenue – Concerned about EAB and 2 green ashes on his property suspected to be within right-of-way (ROW). STC had general discussion of EAB, informed resident that Township does not have a treatment program due to cost and frequency of treatment required, STC suggested potential treatments resident can do on their own. Resident informed to contact Public Works for removal if the trees are dead and within the public ROW.

1 observer in attendance

- Joseph Curran, Rutgers University Student – Attending meeting as part of course project.

**Dendrology**

None

**Adjournment:**

8:27 PM

S. Malone motioned, A. Schmidt 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Respectively Submitted,

Jason Harkins

Secretary