

MINUTES
PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 25, 2014

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 in Monument Hall. S. Ainsworth opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the Law, Notice was provided of the date, time and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted Schedule of Regular Meetings in the Monument Hall and Witherspoon Buildings, by mailing copies to the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet, and Town Topics and by filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk of Princeton.

PRESENT: Sharon Ainsworth, Victoria Airgood, Joanne Diez, Pat Frawley,
Pam Machold (5:45-6:30); May Papastephanou, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Jenny Crumiller, Steve Hiltner, Lily Krauss

ALSO PRESENT: Greg O’Neil, Arborist/Open Space Manager
Janice Most, Secretary

MINUTES

December 17, 2013

P. Frawley moved to approve the December 17, 2013 Minutes as clarified and amended.
M. Papastephanou seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

February 25, 2014

M. Papastephanou moved to approve the Minutes as presented. P. Frawley seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET

Nothing new to report.

BUSINESS

Draft Management Plan

Guest Speaker: Kevin Scibilia

G. O'Neil introduced Kevin Scibilia who is drafting the consolidated Management Plan.

Discussion ensued concerning: the melding of the prior Borough and Township Management Plans; Mr. Scibilia's vision of the new Plan; the direction and rewriting of goals the Commission wishes to take; hazardous trees in regard to pruning and removing; diversity of tree species; the intent of the new Ordinance and the enforceability of same; tree disease, in particular Emerald Ash Borer, which will eventually be in New Jersey; the capability of the Princeton tree crew removing dead trees; involving the State for protection of Ash trees where K. Scibilia stated there is nothing the State can do, Emerald Ash Borer is like wildfire, by the time it is realized the disease will be entrenched and has the capability of killing 90% of Ash trees.

K. Scibilia stated that the Management Plan will be submitted to the State as a new document; the prior Borough and Township Plans are void due to consolidation. He also stated that he will be focusing on four to five important goals and he hopes to have a draft Plan available for the April Shade Tree meeting so the Commission can start their review. G. O'Neil stated a realistic timeline for completion of the Plan noting that the Commission is currently working on melding of the Ordinances. When the new Ordinance is complete review can begin on the new Management Plan.

I-Tree and Canopy Calculation

S. Ainsworth, J. Diez, and V. Airgood volunteered to work with I-Tree. G. O'Neil reminded the Commission that at the February meeting Sustainable Princeton requested a canopy goal. Discussion ensued concerning the vision for the future; when does a tree canopy count; education of what a canopy is. P. Frawley moved to increase the tree canopy by 3% in 25 years; J. Stern seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

NJ Tree Recovery

Application to the State for tree recovery was denied due to timing issues for distribution and planting.

Arbor Day at Littlebrook School

Arbor Day is Friday, April 25, 2014. This year activities will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the Littlebrook School. J. Stern contacted the school representative, S. Cahill, who in turn will contact G. O'Neil. There will be no tree distribution.

Communiiversity

Communiiversity will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Shade Tree will share a table with the Master Gardeners and have 200 tree saplings from the New Jersey Forest Service to distribute.

Action: P. Frawley, S. Ainsworth, and J. Stern will coordinate table coverage.

Website

S. Ainsworth stated that she, P. Frawley and J. Crumiller are working on the website and noted the updates. Suggestion was made that a newspaper reporter be contacted to view the website.

Action: J. Stern will contact the Packet and Town Topics.

In relation to the website the Commission questioned who updates the tree database. G. O’Neil stated that he provides this function.

Next Ordinance Melding Meeting

The next meeting for Ordinance melding will be Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., Monument Hall, East Conference Room.

Yardwaste

There was brief discussion of leaf and brush pickup and how it relates to Shade Tree. This topic will be revisited at the April meeting.

DISCUSSION

Annual Report

Commission Member’s volunteer hours should be reported as part of the Annual Report.

Action: S. Ainsworth will send an e-mail to all members to keep track of volunteer hours. Included should be training, phone calls, site visits, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. J. Stern seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted April 14, 2014
Janice S. Most

Adopted: April 22, 2014