

MINUTES
PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 22, 2014

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 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, Jenny Crumiller (6:45 p.m.); Joanne Diez, Pat Frawley, Steve Hiltner (5:50 p.m.), Lily Krauss, Pam Machold, May Papastephanou

ABSENT: Victoria Airgood, Janet Stern

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

MINUTES

December 17, 2013

P. Frawley moved to approve the March 25, 2014 Minutes as amended.
M. Papastephanou seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET

Nothing new to report.

BUSINESS

Goals and Management Plan

S. Ainsworth distributed the former Borough and former Township Mission Statements and Goals. All documents have been shared with Kevin Scibilia as a basic framework for the new consolidated Management Plan. Discussion ensued concerning: formatting of the new Management Plan; from which template to work from, the former Borough or Township; Commission Members to start thinking about setting goals.

Ordinance Melding Legal Fees

The Commission reviewed the Ordinance Melding legal fees for the period January 1 through February 28, 2014. Concerning the new Ordinance, discussion ensued concerning: neighbor notification; the “trigger” for the permitting process e.g., size of trees; permit fee; and, replacement of removed trees or fund donation. As the Commission seems divided on a few aspects there was discussion of the pros and cons of bringing the Draft Ordinance to the Council Draft Oversight Oversight Committee. The decision was made not to forward to the Oversight Committee. The next Ordinance Melding meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7 at 8:30 a.m.

255 Nassau Street; Block 48.01, Lot 7, 8 ROI Renovations and Development Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan with Variances

G. O’Neil stated that this application is located at the former West Coast Video building site where the new 7-Eleven will be going. Currently, there are four Pear trees, three Maple trees and Hawthorne’s that are all in questionable shape; the removal of these trees is appropriate. In the rear there will be limited disturbance as there is a University parking area. There are Yews and White Pines that are not in good condition and are used to provide screening. The applicant wants to maintain the screening through the building process and when done will remove and replant the screening. Discussion ensued concerning the sidewalk and sidewalk trees in boxes; the relocation and extension of the driveway off of Nassau Street; the current driveway access not being used, as the driveway is owned by the University; and, the third floor addition to the building. The applicant is removing eight plantings and replacing with 21 Gingkoes, Japanese Pagoda’s and Lindens. Discussion ensued concerning how trees communicate; root channels in a parking lot; and soil composition. G. O’Neil will e-mail the Planning Board with the Commission concerns of tree channels, and structural soils being in accordance to industry standards.

Action: G. O’Neill will write an e-mail from the Commission to the Planning Board.

Arbor Day at Littlebrook School – Friday, April 25, 2014 (10:30 a.m.)

G. O’Neil stated that there will be two public works vehicles and a chipper for demonstration. A Dogwood will be planted. S. Ainsworth asked Commission Members to attend.

Communiiversity – Sunday, April 27, 2014 (1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

For distribution: photos of proper planting and volcano brochures. Volunteers: L. Kraus will stop by at 1:00 p.m. for an hour or two, S. Ainsworth and P. Frawley will be there from 12 noon till 3:00 p.m.

Website

The Commission discussed the Website updates.

Yard Waste Proposal

Discussion ensued concerning: Street Leaf Ordinance being ignored by residents; enforcement of Street Leaf Ordinance; Police enforcement; vegetative waste scheduled being confusing and complicated; the enforcement of the Ordinance not being supported by Mayor and Council; authority delegated to Environmental Commission in relation to leaves; the Commission preparing a list of recommendations; distribution of a brochure at Communiversiity; downed tree removal and offering banks of firewood for resident use.

Other Business

S. Ainsworth reminded the Commission of the Healthy Children Healthy Planet program at the Riverside School on May 17, 2014. S. Ainsworth, P. Frawley, and S. Hiltner plan to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. P. Machold seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted June 12, 2014
Janice S. Most

Adopted: June 24, 2014