

MINUTES
PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 23, 2014

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 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, Jenny Crumiller, Joanne Diez,
Pat Frawley, Steve Hiltner, Lily Krauss (left at 7:20 p.m.), Pam Machold,
May Papastephanou, Janet Stern

ABSENT:

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

MINUTES

P. Frawley moved to approve the Minutes as amended. L. Krauss seconded.
The Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET

August 31, 2014 budget expenditures were presented. Brief general discussion ensued.

BUSINESS

12 and 14 Dorann Avenue Tree Removal

G. O’Neill stated that this project is a tear down and rebuild and there is not a tree removal application pending at this time. The duplex is of an odd shape with a garage off both sides. There are a number of Pine and Spruce trees “in-line” on the front lawn. It is his understanding that the plan is to remove Evergreen trees on the front and side lawn.

Present from the public was Ruth Koplner, 19 Dorann Avenue who stated that she recently walked around the property and there are approximately 10 huge Pine trees in front and heavily overgrown bushes in the back.

Discussion ensued concerning: assumptions of number and types of trees to be removed; donation to the Trust Fund; landscaping plan; condition of existing trees and plantings; variance requirements, if any; applicant will not be grandfathered under the old Ordinance, the new Ordinance will be used; water problems/issues; removal and replacement of buffer screening.

It was agreed by all that it was premature to speculate on what might happen. As more information becomes available about the project, better decisions can be made. G. O'Neil stated he would keep the Commission apprised of new developments.

32 Chestnut Street Tree (correspondence from John and Jean Frederick)

G. O'Neil stated that this tree is 10-12 inches in diameter and reaches the peak of the house. With proper pruning the concerns the residents have can be corrected. He also stated that the sidewalk is slightly lifted by about one half inch and can be replaced or ground down, and on Thursday, September 25 Chestnut Street will be closed as PSE&G will be doing tree work; he will make sure this tree is attended to.

Discussion ensued concerning: new sidewalk cut and grinding; can the roots of the tree be shaved and channeled; limbs being entangled in wires; is pruning the reasonable approach.

G. O'Neil will inform the resident of the Commissions' decision that the tree will be properly pruned by the Municipality instead of removed.

Community Forestry Plan

Working from the Draft dated August 20, 2014 which was also visible on the meeting room television screen via computer with J. Crumiller making changes, Members discussed the changes and corrections to the Plan. Details of these changes are available on the audio tape of the meeting which is being made an official part of these Minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. J. Stern seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted October 22, 2014
Janice S. Most

Adopted: October 28, 2014