



PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 in Monument Hall. S. Ainsworth, Chair, 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, Pat Frawley, Lily Krauss, Pam Machold (left at 7:10 p.m.), Bernie Miller (left at 6:45), Alexandra Radbil, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Joanne Diez

ALSO PRESENT: Lorraine Konopka, Arborist; Janice Most, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

P. Frawley moved to approve the January 26, 2016 Minutes as amended. P. Machold seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET

L. Konopka stated that the CFO would have budget information available on February 24.

NEW BUSINESS

438 Snowden Lane

Present for the applicant was Tim Bruchez, Princeton Tree Care and Rich McCoy, Landscape Architect, Wildwoods Landscape Architecture.

T. Bruchez stated that an updated plan has been submitted to enhance the property. The current request is to remove 15 standing dead or poor health trees, two healthy trees that are hazardous to the dwelling due to their close proximity, and eight healthy trees to allow for the construction of a tennis court. With the requests for removal storm water management runoff has been taken into account.

R. McCoy presented the Phase I - Landscape/Tennis Court/Tree Removal/Planting Plan dated February 15, 2016 and explained how the replanting's were laid out to accommodate the neighbors and water runoff.

Discussion ensued concerning: if the plan meets Ordinance requirements; monoculture-try not to use ten percent of the same tree - need tree diversity - members suggested what trees to use; screening; canopy replacements; balance of screening and canopy; the two healthy trees considered to be a hazard to the dwelling; drainage from the tennis court; Engineering Department suggestion to install ten more trees for extra drainage instead of a drainage system; moving the tennis court to save more trees; the fencing and how it would affect tree survival with the fence being 1-1.5 feet below grade - Ko Kiuchi, the applicant, stated that this fence was to protect his dogs from digging under the fence and escaping the yard. L. Konopka suggested that attention be focused on the application as it pertains to the tree removals and replanting's.

Raymond DeVoe, 422 Snowden Lane, questioned if he had the most recent plan. R. DeVoe also stated that he resented having to meet his new neighbor under these circumstances and blames the Developer. He is encouraged that the new owner welcomed discussion and is cooperating. R. DeVoe gave a summary of tree removals and replanting's since 2014 and the impacts it has had to his property. He stated that the Developer promised aggressive replanting and he holds the Developer responsible.

P. Machold moved to approve the plan with alteration of the fence as to not impact the tree roots. A. Radbil seconded. After discussion P. Frawley moved to withdraw. A. Radbil seconded. The Motion to withdraw passed unanimously.

P. Frawley moved to approve the plan with the 49 tree and ten shrub replacements, to reconsider the depth of the wire mesh fence and to use more diversity in replacement tree selections. A. Radbil seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

V. Airgood moved to amend the Motion with the recommendation that the underground portion of the fence be eliminated and consider alternate anchoring. J. Stern seconded.

Roll call vote: J. Stern-yes, V. Airgood-yes, A. Radbil-yes, P. Frawley-no, L. Krauss-no, S. Ainsworth-no, P. Machold-no. By unanimous vote the Motion did not pass.

CANDIDATES FOR OPEN COMMISSION POSITION

S. Ainsworth stated that Steven Hiltner has resigned from the Shade Tree Commission.

P. Frawley moved to accept S. Hiltner's resignation. P. Machold seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued concerning replacements and how the new member will be an Alternate with Alternate 1 becoming a regular member.

L. Krauss moved to have S. Ainsworth discuss with Council Liaison B. Miller interest from Welmoet Bok van Kammen and to proceed with the appointment. P. Frawley seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Nassau Street DOT Project Species Selection/Update

L. Konopka stated the DOT will be doing test pits on Nassau Street the week of February 29.

Ordinance Revisions

L. Konopka presented an addition to the Revised Shade Tree Ordinance – #16, 17, 18 – Tree Protection Zone (TPZ).

V. Airgood discussed modification of #12 concerning applications. Discussion ensued concerning noticing to neighbors.

By affirmation vote, the Commission approved the Subcommittee to present to the Council Code Review Committee.

Davey TreeKeeper Mobile App

L. Konopka stated that she has been using the free trial of the Davey TreeKeeper Mobile App and felt it was not useful for current work. She recommends not pursuing at this time. Members in attendance agreed.

OTHER

Shrubs

L. Konopka stated that Management Staff asked if the Shade Tree Commission had interest in expanding to include shrubs and landscaping on private properties. After brief discussion Members in attendance agreed not to pursue this avenue at this time.

Arbor Day

L. Konopka stated that two elementary schools have confirmed for Arbor Day activities. She will have more information at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. A. Radbil seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted March 15, 2016
Janice S. Most

Adopted: March 22, 2016