



PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Prior to the start of the meeting, Janice Most stated that due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Commission Members would need to appoint an Acting Chair for this meeting only.

V. Airgood moved to nominate A. Radbil. P. Frawley seconded. A Radbil accepted the nomination. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in Monument Hall. Acting Chair A. Radbil 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: Victoria Airgood, Joanne Diez, Pat Frawley, Steve Hiltner (left at 7:10), Pam Machold, Bernie Miller (left at 6:30), Alexandra Radbil, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Sharon Ainsworth, Lily Krauss

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

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

BUDGET

L. Konopka stated that in year 2015 collections for Shade Tree were \$28,180.00 which included fines for unauthorized tree removals and no tree protection zones. She also stated that Transco (pipeline) paid \$54,440 for 389 trees that were not accepted by private property owners. These monies are in the Shade Tree Trust Reserve.

REORGANIZATION

P. Frawley stated that each member was contacted for interest in position of Chair and Vice Chair. S. Ainsworth was the only member interested in Chair and L. Krauss was the only member interested in Vice Chair.

Election of Chair - P. Frawley moved to nominate S. Ainsworth as Chair. J. Diez seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair - J. Diez moved to nominate L. Krauss as Vice Chair. P. Machold seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

By affirmation vote of all members present, J. Most was designated as Secretary to the Shade Tree Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

438 Snowden Lane

Carried to next regularly scheduled meeting.

L. Konopka stated that the Applicant wishes to make revisions to the plans in conjunction with discussions with the Developer, Engineering Department and Arborist. She will deny the January 16, 2016 application as submitted.

Members List

The Members 2016 list was reviewed and requested changes noted. A. Radbil stated that if members want their affiliations next to their names to send her an email and she will put it on the website.

PSE&G New Regulations/Tree Trimming

L. Konopka stated that PSE&G distributed new vegetation management rules; they are on a four-year rotation throughout Princeton. She gave the locations of this year's management plan.

OLD BUSINESS

49 Lovers Lane

L. Konopka stated that the homeowners will be using the existing driveway configuration and the large right-of-way beech tree will stay and will have the proper tree protection during construction.

203-205 Nassau Street

L. Konopka stated that the replanting of the empty tree pits on Charlton Street will begin; currently the street is lined with Kwanzan Cherry trees. There has not be a formal application submitted and when one is submitted she will know more. There was discussion of acceptable tree species for the area.

438 Snowden Lane

L. Konopka stated that the resident is working with neighbors and everything is working out.

Rutgers Tree Day

J. Diez stated that she attended Rutgers Tree Day which was a full days of lectures and very informative. At this meeting she will touch on a few topics and will continue to share information at future meetings (in the meantime she will email web sites to Members): tree selection for changing environments, tree stress and shock, climate change and how it relates to trees, water availability on site when planting trees, high winds and trees, construction damage related to soil as soil does not regenerate, early springs/late freezes, Bacterial Leaf Scorch, spraying for gypsy moths, Emerald Ash Borer and their ability to fly five miles in their lifetime/looking at natural predators (parasitic wasps), soil volume for trees compost /ph. (For detailed discussion of the above topics, please see the audio tape of the meeting.)

J. Diez also stated that if the Commission can invite speakers to come lecture the time can benefit Continuing Education Credits. Also a community event can be planned to keep up on credits while educating the public. Discussion ensued concerning: educational outreach; partnership with the Library and Marquand Park Association; the Environmental Film Festival in April; Sustainable Princeton monthly breakfasts.

Nassau Street DOT Project Species Selection/Update

L. Konopka stated that she sent a list of 28 trees to the Landscape Architect and will be sending specific addresses. She also stated that she requested the trees be staked, gator bags be used, mulch, grinding and tree pits enlarged if necessary. There was brief discussion on the long range plan.

Ordinance Revisions

V. Airgood stated that the comments received from members were incorporated into the Ordinance Revision Draft document. Discussion ensued concerning: one free tree removal per year; replant or pay; replacements into the community forest vs. specific properties; reducing number of trees owed; alternate site replacements when replacement not feasible on a specific property; exemption list for replacements; Shade Tree Commission review for new planning/zoning developments; requirement of compliance with Shade Tree Ordinance for all planning/zoning developments; propose to Mayor and Council to strengthen the Ordinance more; changing the Land Use Law.

Changes made were:

#5. third line add the word “inch” after 3.0

#13. fourth line – ¹. end sentence at approval (insert period)

². remove rest of sentence starting with “and that comments by permit”

A. Radbil suggested a Motion be made to accept the Draft Ordinance Revision document as amended and forward to the Code Review Committee after final review by S. Ainsworth, V. Airgood, and J. Stern.

P. Machold moved to accept. P. Frawley seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. V. Airgood seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted February 18, 2016
Janice S. Most

Adopted: February 23, 2016