



PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES Tuesday, January 24, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 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, Welmoet Bok van Kammen (left at 7:30),
Joanne Diez (arrived at 5:40), Pat Frawley, Patricia Hyatt, Lily Krauss,
Bernie Miller (left at 7:00), Alexandra Radbil, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Victoria Airgood

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Hough, Director I/O; Lorraine Konopka, Arborist;
Janice Most, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

L. Krauss moved to approved the December 13, 2016 Minutes as amended. P. Frawley seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET

R. Hough stated:

- Operating Budget includes \$40,000 for cranes for tree removals
- the EAB Program has been requested in Capital Fund plus \$100,000 for Spring and Fall planting projects

B. Miller stated:

- the Finance Committee presented their report to Mayor and Council and are facing a two million dollar shortfall
- remedies include: balance the Budget with a 6% tax increase, reducing or removing programs with discretionary expenditures lowered or a combination of both
- all Departments and programs will be looked at; items that can be put off will be considered; there is a soft hiring freeze and only emergency hiring's are being considered; the Budget needs to be balanced before expenditures

Discussion:

- Budget dates
- Capital Budget EAB program is separate from Operating Budget
- temporary surcharges on taxes to manage EAB problem
- local Open Space Tax for funding – this must be researched by Legal
- each property tax bill to include \$1 extra to go in an EAB fund

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

S. Ainsworth introduced new Member Patricia Hyatt. P. Hyatt gave a brief summary of her time on the Borough Shade Tree Commission and stated is happy to be involved again.

REORGANIZATION

R. Hough stated options for Reorganization. He also stated that there was staff interest in changing regularly scheduled meeting start time. There was brief discussion concerning the start time and all Members present agreed to keep the start time of the February 28, 2017 at 5:30 and to place this topic on the February Agenda for further discussion.

Election of Chair - P. Frawley moved to nominate S. Ainsworth as Chair. J. Stern seconded. S. Ainsworth accepted the nomination.
L. Krauss moved for S. Ainsworth as Chair. A. Radbil seconded.
The Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair – P. Frawley moved to nominate L. Krauss as Vice Chair.
J. Stern seconded.
L. Krauss accepted the nomination.
J. Diez moved for L. Krauss as Vice Chair. S. Ainsworth seconded.
The Motion passed unanimously.

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

2017 Meeting Dates

By affirmation vote of all Members present, meeting dates were approved; start time of meetings to be determined at the February 28, 2017 meeting.

L. Krauss moved to table the decision of the start of regularly scheduled meetings to the next regularly scheduled meeting. P. Frawley seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

By affirmation vote of all Members present the Members 2017 list was approved as amended.

W. Bok van Kammen requested the Clerk's Office be contacted to give them the correct spelling of her name.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

P. Frawley moved that the STC partner with the Master Gardeners at Communiversity, being held on April 30, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., with the STC paying all fees.

A. Radbil seconded.

The Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- L. Konopka stated that she is looking into the amounts of seedlings the State is offering this year
- not needing as many seedlings for Communiversity and Arbor Day
- L. Konopka stated she had a handout to go along with seedlings on how to properly plant the seedling; there was brief discussion on proper planting
- L. Konopka stated that two schools have been added to the Arbor Day Celebration bringing the total to five; B. Miller stated that before consolidation the Charter School was included

ASH TREE/EAB DATA ANALYSIS UPDATE

A. Radbil presented the Draft – Ash Condition Evaluation Criteria, of which a copy is attached to these Minutes. A. Radbil further stated that removing, treating, and replacing Ash trees would be approximately \$1.7 million over the next six years; this is an estimate and does not include inflation.

Discussion:

- public parks were not in the initial inventory
- there are 24 Municipal, County, State, and Private parks
- L. Krauss has inventoried 12 of the public parks and presented how she used Engineering Department plans
- waiting for the Engineering Department to give park ownerships
- methods used to inventory – Engineering hand held devices, phone GPS, other Engineering Department equipment
- training for using Engineering Department hand held devices

- B. Miller stated he will speak with the Engineering Department in regard to equipment needs
- W. Bok van Kammen will merge tree locations with the tax database
- need to obtain Grants
- need Interns of upper high school/college and Members to mentor Interns
- P. Frawley offered to help A. Radbil with database entering

Discussion (Adopt A Tree Program):

- communication with property owners to explain the program and to adopt a tree associated with their property
- contact Town Topics and Princeton Packet to do a publicity piece on the program and article(s) on participants
- participants need to know: there is no guarantee the tree will survive/the Municipality is also trying to save trees and needs help/participation is a long-term commitment
- letter needs to be written that needs to be done by mid-April – Subcommittee to draft a letter to participant:
L. Krauss and P. Hyatt will write the letter, J. Stern and P. Frawley will review the letter, W. Bok van Kammen will provide labels
- link inspected trees to website

GOALS FOR 2017

Discussion:

- EAB Management Plan
- Ash tree wood disposal/utilization
disposal site not yet approved
make wood available to Artisan's
- QR Codes and how they work

- planting a White Oak in honor of former Town Arborist Greg O'Neill to be planted at Community Park North
- Members reviewed the Draft - 2017 Shade Tree Commission Goals – copy attached as part of these Minutes
- Members should review the 2017 Goals and volunteer for tasks

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. A. Radbil seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted April 19, 2017
Janice S. Most

Adopted: May 23, 2017