

**Princeton Shade Tree Commission**

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2017

Monument Hall-East Conference Room
1 Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present**Board Members:**

Sharon Ainsworth, Chair
Lily Krauss, Vice Chair
Victoria Airgood
Raymond Devoe
Patricia Frawley
Pat Hyatt
Welmoet Bok van Kammen
Alexandra Radbil
Janet Stern

Staff:

Lorraine Konopka, Arborist
Ben Strauss, Recording
Secretary
Janice Most, Administrative
Assistant

Guests:

Caroline Castleman
Christine Symington,
Sustainable Princeton

Absent**Board Members:**

Bernie Miller, Council
Liaison

Future Actions

Ms. Radbil	Double check newly entered data
Ms. Bok Van Kammen	Add Ash tree dot info to website
Ms. Stern, Ms. Bok van Kammen	Work with Council Member Crumiller on new website
Vice Chair Krauss	Contact Code for Princeton
Vice Chair Krauss	Write up revised First Aid and Rescue Squad letter
Chair Ainsworth	Send members task list sheet
Arborist Konopka	Send Ms. Radbil newly entered data
Arborist Konopka	Write up monoculture definition
All members	Review task list sheet
All members	Keep track of volunteer hours and CEUs
All members	Check contact information on membership list
All members	Look at iTree website

I. Opening Statement

At 5:00 PM, Chair Ainsworth calls the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Chair Ainsworth calls roll.

III. Public Comment

Chair Ainsworth recognizes the two members of the public.

Ms. Castleman, a Princeton University journalism student, introduces herself. She has been researching the Princeton Shade Tree committee (its goals, structure, and function) for a class project on local government.

Ms. Symington, Program Director for Sustainable Princeton, gives an update on Sustainable Princeton, particularly three items:

1) Princeton recently has been recertified at silver status. She thanks the committee for their efforts—a tree protection ordinance, a community forestry plan and tree cover goal, a tree hazard inventory, and a tree planting program—to help with the certification.

2) Some students from the AP Environmental high school class want to assist in identifying trees with Emerald Ash borer on the high school property. Ms. Symington suggested they talk to Arborist Konopka. Ms. Hyatt says Mr. Cohen, District Supervisor for Science, would handle this. Ms. Symington says he attended the class with her.

3) A team from Code for Princeton, at the Princeton Public Library's civic hackathon, built an app that allows users to tag an Ash tree with a geolocation and picture, and then send it to town staff to identify if the tree has Emerald Ash Borer. Members think this might help, particularly in identifying trees in park trails. Vice Chair Krauss will contact them. Chair Ainsworth suggests the team also coordinate with the AP Environmental class students. Ms. Symington will give Vice Chair Krauss, Ms. Hyatt, and Mr. Cohen their contact information.

IV. Minutes

1) September 26, 2017

Members suggest corrections. Vice Chair Krauss motions to approve the September minutes with corrections. Ms. Frawley seconds. Members vote to approve the minutes unanimously.

V. Budget Update

The committee does not hear a budget update.

VI. New Business

1) New Member – Ray Devoe – (S. Ainsworth)

Chair Ainsworth and members welcome Mr. Devoe (to his five-year term as second alternate). Mr. Devoe says he does forestry work at Thompson Land Management. He wants to take courses at Rutgers' land management program. He passes out tree samplings to members (from acorns on his property). Ms. Bok van Kammen takes a picture of the samplings.

2) Updated Members List – (S. Ainsworth)

Chair Ainsworth says Ms. Bok van Kammen has become a voting member, and Ms. Hyatt has become the first alternate.

3) Zoning Board Review – (L. Krauss)

Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad, Inc.

Mount Lucas Road at Valley Road

Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan with Use and Bulk Variances to Permit the Construction of an Emergency Services Facility

Vice Chair Krauss describes the project. Members discuss the following:

1) Parking Lot Location: the plan calls for moving the parking lot to the other side of the property to accommodate a new gas dock (for municipal vehicles). They did not place the gas dock on the plan. Vice Chair Krauss wants to suggest flipping the parking lot to save a large Pin Oak.

2) Tree diversity: Vice Chair Krauss thinks they can plant trees more suitable to the location, for instance a disease-resistant Elm instead of a Zelkova. Arborist Konopka suggests Princeton Elms at the gateway to Princeton. Vice Chair Krauss will add that to the letter and suggest 5-10-15 diversity (given the earlier conversation about monoculture under Other).

3) Temporary soil location: the plan calls for removing two Hawthorns for a temporary soil location. If they moved the soil somewhere else, they could save those trees. Vice Chair Krauss suggested that in the letter.

4) Tree protection zone: Chair Ainsworth says the plan needs to expand its tree protection zone, particularly next to the parking lot, in order to protect the trees at their dripline.

5) Tree number: Arborist Konopka says the property does not have room for the required fourteen additional trees (the plan calls for planting fifteen new trees). She wants fewer, 4 to 6 inch caliber trees (instead of the usual 2 to 3 inch ones). She could also find another place to plant the trees, such as at Witherspoon to replace the Pin Oaks. Members like a smaller number of larger trees.

Ms. Stern says she wants to preserve municipal trees. She does not want to place any obstacles to the First Aid and Rescue Squad. She just wants to set a good example of saving trees for the rest of community. Arborist Konopka worries about saving a tree, only for the tree to die from disease (maybe even within eight years).

Chair Ainsworth called for a motion to approve the letter with discussed changes. Members unanimously voted to approve the letter.

4) Zoning Board Review – (L. Krauss)

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church of Princeton

110 Witherspoon Street

Minor Site Plan with Use and Bulk Variances to Permit Renovations

Vice Chair Krauss describes the project. She talked to the landscape architect about the plan and suggested changes. The landscape architect agreed to the changes.

Motion to approve the letter

Result: Adopted [Unanimous]

Move: Frawley

Seconder: Radbil

Ayes: Ainsworth, Krauss, Frawley, Bok van Kammen, Radbil, Stern

5) Review of Individual Committee Member Tasks from Each Meeting – (S. Ainsworth)

Chair Ainsworth says, next month, the committee will review individual members' tasks for each meeting. She wants to assign members to each committee goal. So, by the end of the year, Arborist Konopka can include it as an attachment to her annual report to the state. Chair Ainsworth wants members to review it before the next meeting.

VII. Old Business

1) EAB Management Plan Draft – (A. Radbil, J. Stern)

Arborist Konopka describes revisions to the state EAB management plan draft template. Arborist Konopka met with Ms. Radbil and Ms. Stern, then Arborist Konopka discussed it with Director Hough and Superintendent of Public Works Van Mater. Arborist Konopka, Ms. Radbil and Ms. Stern streamlined the state template that included every possible EAB approach. They will use both selective and preemptive management.

Ms. Bok van Kammen considers the plan's description of inventorying park ashes too general. She wants language specifying the inventory will only include high use areas. Arborist Konopka and members agree to change the language to "sample inventory of high use areas in parks and open spaces is planned for the future".

Ms. Airgood asks if the committee will have a plan for individual trees. Arborist Konopka considers that a logistics work plan not a management plan.

Ms. Airgood asks if the public can see the logistics work plan. Arborist Konopka has not yet formulated it yet. She has been painting trees with red dots for removal and green dot for injection. She wants to target 500 trees for first-round removal (from January 1st, 2018 to December 31st, 2018).

Ms. Bok van Kammen asks if she should add the meaning of green and red dots to the website. Arborist Konopka says yes.

Motion to approve plan with one change

Result: Adopted [Unanimous]

Move: Radbil

Seconder: Frawley

Ayes: Ainsworth, Krauss, Airgood, Frawley, Bok van Kammen, Radbil, Stern

2) Ash Tree Removals/Treatment Update – (L. Konopka)

Arborist Konopka says she has been using a list outside the database to keep track of Ash trees. She says a staff member entered some tree data. Ms. Radbil asks Arborist Konopka to send her the entered data so Ms. Radbil can conduct quality control.

Ms. Radbil expresses concern about another person entering tree data. Ms. Radbil worries that the employee might have entered the data wrong. Ms. Radbil could not find all the trees Ms. Wallace entered into the database. She only found 66 of 131 trees Ms. Wallace entered into the database. Arborist Konopka says she contacted Ms. Wallace. Ms. Wallace has not responded because she has been busy with college.

Ms. Radbil wants a regular, trained staff member to update the database. Ms. Bok van Kammen wants real-time, in-field data entry. Chair Ainsworth will talk with Council Member Miller about the issue.

3) US Forest Service iTree Analysis Tool – (W. Bok van Kammen)

Ms. Bok van Kammen gives an overview of iTree. She asks why members want to use it. Arborist Konopka says the state wants towns to use iTree Storm so, when a major calamity occurs, FEMA will have a record of the value of a town's trees. Chair Ainsworth says members should discuss the issue next month (November). Arborist Konopka suggests members look at the iTree website.

Ms. Bok van Kammen says iTree has a tool to identify monoculture.

VIII. Other

1) Monoculture Definition

Ms. Bok van Kammen asks about the definition's status. Vice Chair Krauss says she has not worked on it. Vice Chair Krauss says the committee could use it in its plan reviews. Chair Ainsworth asks if ANSI (American National Standards Institute) has a definition. Arborist Konopka mentions a definition saying planting according to the 10-20-30 (or 5-10-15) rule, no more than 10 percent in a single species, 20 percent in a single genus and 30 percent in a single family.

Ms. Bok van Kammen says members must also consider the history of certain streets, like Valley Road's London Planes.

Arborist Konopka will write up a definition. Members can then review it.

2) Meeting with Mayor and Council

Chair Ainsworth reports that, this morning (October 24), she and Arborist Konopka attended the Mayor and Council's meeting of committees with 2018 goals and planning interest. She updated them about EAB management and the inventory database. Council will update Chair Ainsworth in January about their goals.

3) Town Website

Chair Ainsworth reports the town will update their website by January. She reached out to Council Member Crumiller about the Shade Tree Website. Ms. Bok van Kammen and Ms. Stern will help as well.

Ms. Bok van Kammen asks if, after the change, members can continue to directly update the website. Chair Ainsworth does not know.

4) Volunteer Hours

Chair Ainsworth tells members to continue tracking their volunteer hours. She will need to know that number in the middle of December. Arborist Konopka says members should also keep track of their CEUs.

5) Community Forestry Plan

Chair Ainsworth mentions that, in 2018, the committee will need to update its five-year community forestry management plan.

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Frawley motions to adjourn. Ms. Radbil seconds. The committee adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary.

Date Approved: 11/28/17