

Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission Minutes
December 10, 2008 7:15 PM
Town Hall Conference Room

- 1. Call to Order**
 - The meeting was called to order by Randy at 7:15PM.
- 2. Roll Call**

Present: Randy Santoro, Mark Harabedian, Dave Ferratti, Fred Burgerhoff, Jack Gray, Charlie Cunion, Terri Laird, Chris McManemin. Absent: Scott Spitzer, Judy O'Connell.
- 3. Minutes from October**
 - Reviewed and accepted.
- 4. Bills/Purchase Orders**
 - Holiday party bill was approved.
- 5. Correspondence**
 - A letter from the Open Space Committee dated 12/8/08 was received by Randy. The STC members were invited to attend a walk through of the properties purchased by Open Space this Saturday at 9:45am at Town Hall.
- 6. Grant Report (Green Communities)**
 - The \$3,000 grant money from the State related to consulting fees for the Forestry Management Plan was received by the Town.
- 7. Charter Day (May 17)**
 - No update.
- 8. Arbor Day (April 26)**
 - No update.
- 9. Education Report**
 - Mark contacted Rutgers and the State regarding the pesticide training seminar the DPW staff attended in October. Rutgers personnel will submit the class to the State for CEU credit in 2008
 - Dave Welsh confirmed a joint tree ID class with the Long Hill STC members on 1/25/09. Randy will coordinate details with Dave and pass information along via email. Mark contacted the Bernardsville STC Chairman and two of their members would like to attend as well.
- 10. New Tree Plantings**
 - Fall planting by Parker Landscaping will start December 16, 2008.
 - 40 new trees and 1 replacement tree is scheduled for planting.
 - Randy sent Tony at Parker a final list for mark-outs with crossroads.
 - Chris confirmed with Jennifer at Parks Department for staging trees at Mt. Park. Charlie will conduct a visual inspection of the trees prior to planting.

- Randy will email STC members Parkers install schedule once known. Terri volunteered to be on call to assist Parker with plantings. DPW staff will also accompany Parker when plantings are conducted.
- Fred will develop tree tags for homeowners about “caring for your new tree,” which will be attached to each new tree.

11. Tree Removals/Pruning

- DPW pruned the tree at 156 Finley.
- Dave F. will review ROW measurements for sugar maple tree at 3446 Valley Road. DPW will assist with take down if within ROW.

12. Updated Community Forestry Plan

- Nothing to report.

13. Budget

- Nothing to report.

14. Subcommittees

- Mark emailed the Jackson County Clerk again, on status of law suit regarding tree ordinance being heard by the State Supreme Court. Response from the Clerk was that the case has not been heard as of yet. Outcome of this will impact the direction on re-writing tree ordinances. Randy noted that this is the last meeting of the year and any and all sub-committees expire. We can create new sub-committees next year if needed.

15. Old Business

- Jack has compiled an “approved tree list” – Judy will type it and post to our website and send to Chuck Drews in Engineering. (Carryover from prior month)
- Randy reported four possible alternates for the STC. Two candidates were invited to the December meeting but were unable to attend. Randy will contact the other two candidates on the list as back-up.
- Randy completed and submitted the Elm Tree Planting Program (betterflowers.com) application.

16. New Business

- Dave mentioned the possibility of using of DPW staff with conducting tree plantings in the future, instead of coordinating with outside nursery. This would help by cutting costs and better coordination in the timing of the actual tree plantings. Mark will check with the Town Finance Department on determining if any inter-department billing needs to occur.
- Fred volunteered to draft an editorial to the Bernardsville Newspaper, citing the tree plantings and goal of the STC in Town.
- Chris mentioned the real-estate space on the Tree City USA signs. Chris will send Dave F. the website wording so stickers can be made to fit the sign.

15. Next Meeting: January 14, 2009 at 7:15.

15. Adjournment

8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mark Harabedian
Vice-Chairman**