

Township of Colts Neck, Shade Tree Commission meeting of Feb 1, 2017 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Eileen Stivala, Chair, who read the following statement:

“As the presiding officer of this meeting of the Colts Neck Shade Tree Commission, I hereby declare that the notice requirements in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law Chapter 12, P.L. 1975 have been provided in accordance with the Annual Notice Procedures of C.10.4-28 of said Act. I further order that this public announcement be placed in the minutes of this meeting.”

Roll Call

Members Present: Eileen Stivala, Gordon Boak, Pat Eastman, James Nicoletti, Henry Hammond.

Members Absent: Gen Axelrod, Shawn Burke, Dino Nicoletta, Anita Omalley.

Also present: Twp liaison Frank Rizzuto, citizens Mike Viola and Laura Riley.

A quorum being present, the meeting proceeded to address the following items

Minutes of the previous meeting of November 2016 were approved without amendment after a motion by Mr. Hammond and a second by Mr. Nicoletti.

The proposed STC budget for 2017 (attached) was reviewed as amended and unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Nicoletti and a second by Ms Eastman. The amendment adds a \$2000 request for invasive pest surveillance and treatment to deal with Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, and other destructive diseases which require hiring a commercial licensed pesticide expert. The budget will be submitted to the Township Committee for their review and action later this month.

After discussion, Anita Omalley was granted a temporary leave of absence. It was moved by Mr Nicoletti, seconded by Ms Eastman and approved unanimously that on a temporary basis, her duties will be undertaken by Mr. Boak who agreed to do so.

Arboretum Strategic Plan

The rationale for developing a strategic plan to maintain the Arboretum and Town Hall grounds were reviewed. Mr Leff, the Landscape Architect, who has been asked to develop the plan, has proposed a **preliminary** plan costing \$2350 and a **final** plan the cost not to exceed \$10,000. The preliminary plan includes: Base map preparation, location of existing and future trees, suggested trees for future planting, meeting with STC to discuss and develop the strategic plan. Mr. Hammond moved, Mr. Nicoletti seconded and the committee unanimously approved authorizing Mr. Leff to proceed to develop and present to STC the **preliminary** Plan, pending approval by the Township Committee of the STC 2017 budget. Monies for this phase are included in the 2017 budget proposal.

Meeting attendance

The lack of participation of some members has hampered the work of STC due to lack of a quorum. Requests for a formal letter of resignation have not been successful. Other interested citizens have been unable to be appointed to STC as members due to this situation. There are no Township ordinances which address this problem. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Ham-

mond, seconded by Mr. Nicoletti, and unanimously approved that:

Effective immediately a member with 3 consecutive unexcused absences or 6 unexcused absences in a year will be deemed to have resigned and the Township Administrator and Township Committee will be so notified.

Problematic Pines

3 problematic large white pine trees are in the island between Heritage Lane and adjacent to Police Dept Parking. When parking is limited police and other vehicles often have to park under these trees. Sap from the trees requires repetitive cleaning of the vehicles. Being mature, they are prone to storm damage. They would like the trees removed. After discussion STC agreed that removal of the trees by DPW is reasonable but that they should be replaced by 2 more suitable shade trees such as European Hornbeam, Carpus betulas. This would also replace the sole Arboretum Hornbeam that was removed from in front of the Court building to make room for the handicapped ramp and would be appropriate for the site. Furthermore by placing the replacement trees between the existing pines the cost of stump grinding would be saved.

Throughout the meeting Mr. Rizzuto, Ms Riley, and Mr. Violo offered constructive and insightful input.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 after a motion by Mr. Hammond and a second by Ms. Eastman

Gordon Boak

Acting Secretary