

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
June 1 2017

Meeting was opened at 7:30PM June 1 at Colts Neck Town Hall by Ms. Stivala, Chair who read the public meeting statement.

Roll Call

Present: Axelrod, Boak, Pat Eastman, Hammond, Nicoletti, Stivala

Absent: O'Malley, Riley, Rizzuto, Viola

Also present: Ed Eastman, Township committee liaison, Evan Stone Landscape Architect

A quorum being present, the Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Stone, representing T & M Architects was introduced, replacing Brian Leef

Old Business

Abbas parking alterations: no new information or response to STC recommendations

Muhlenbrink Road tree cutting: Mr. Galinski to inspect to see if alterations are within property bounds.

Fox Hedge Road restoration plan: 4 trees having been improperly removed, STC discussed remedies. As a result, Mr. Hammond moved, Mr. Nicoletti seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved that: 4 trees of at least 3" caliper be planted by the owner; that the trees would be some combination of swamp oak, or London Planetree; that planting will be by this fall; that the property owner will respond within 30 days agreeing to and intending to be in compliance with the restoration plan.

New Business

Laird Road baseball field trees: Mr. Hammond inspected the site and identified 2 large dead limbs potentially impacting the public areas. DPW will be notified and asked to remove those limbs.

Eleven trees having been recently removed from the Town Hall core site and arboretum, replacement options were reviewed. The goal is to increase diversity of trees within the core site consistent with the suitability of the tree for the particular site, the township's development plans, and the Arboretum strategic plan. The initial areas focused on the west entryway to the parking lot where 2 Emerald Ash were removed, and the the west side of the gazebo where two maples were removed. Recommendations included accolade elm (*Ulmus davidiana* v. *japonica* 'Morton'), London planetree (*Platanus acerifolia*), scholar or pagoda tree (*Saphora japonica*), and American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*). It was felt that these replacements would be within the strategic plan for the TownHall Arboretum and would not interfere with plans to further develop the town hall site to meet current and future operational needs. There being money in the 2017 STC budget for tree replacement, STC voted to send the project out to bid with a response expected by Aug 1 for implementation this year.

Arboretum strategic plan: Mr. Stone, the new landscape architect representing T&M Associates, was brought up to date on the request for a strategic plan. He has reviewed Mr. Leef's work to date. There being money in the 2017 budget for this project, and after a motion by Ms.

Eastman, and a second by Mr. Hammond, STC voted unanimously to authorize T & M Associates to proceed and develop the preliminary plan for the Arboretum. An initial draft will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Liaison report

Mr. Eastman reviewed various initiatives and concerns being dealt with by the Township Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 after a motion by Mr. Hammond and a second by Ms. Axelrod.

Gordon Boak, acting secretary for the STC