



Township of Colts Neck, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

7 April 2016

Meeting called to order at 19:30 hours by Eileen Stivala, 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 21, P.L. 1975 has 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

Commission Members

Present: Eileen Stivala, Gordon Boak, Sean Burke, Patricia Eastman, Henry Hammond, Dino Nicoletta, Jen Axelrod, Jim Nicoletti

Staff

Present: Committeeman Michael Fitzgerald, Township Committee liaison to STC

Absent: Anita O'Malley, sec'y

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by G. Boak to approve, 2nd by J. Axelrod, All in Favor, the Minutes of the previous meeting of March 2016.

New Subdivisions and Site Plans

None Reviewed

Issues

1. A Monmouth County Park System plan to upgrade the water park was reviewed. There are no issues of concern to STC in this proposal.
2. A. Sherwood, 41 Clover Hill Road: 3 trees on her property are private: she will remove them at her expense.
3. Dr. Lukenda, Tanglewood Court: site visited and approval given for him to remove the trees in question.
4. M. Zeck: action tabled pending visit and report by J. Nicoletti.

Discussion

1. STC agreed that E. Stivala would send a letter to G. Gerkin notifying him that he will be expected at the next STC meeting so that backlogged proposals could be reviewed.
2. Discussion with M. Fitzgerald followed about various Township issues including meeting upcoming COAH requirements, a proposed development on Hockhockson Road now before the County Ag Board, and the inability of STC to process many development proposals without Landscape Architect expertise at the STC meeting. Both the submitting architects and the Township governing body have been repeatedly made aware of this problem. M. Fitzgerald suggested we contact G. Gerkin and request his ad hoc presence at STC meetings.
3. Protocol for inspection and approval of tree work by STC was reviewed and approved in principle. It has been reviewed and approved by the Township Administrator. Minor editing of the proposal will be finalized by next meeting. The requested map of the township has been provided for STC use. Until a more permanent storage place is identified, it is in E. Stivala's possession.
4. Revised Ordinance for STC distributed for review. No action taken.
5. May 7, 9 to 11 AM: STC will distribute saplings donated by NJ Forestry to citizens of Colts Neck. Requested number of saplings: 500 to 700
6. Arbor Day activity was discussed.
7. Arboretum Update: first work session on April 1: walk around identified winter damage needing pruning and cleanup. Tree Labels will be ordered, a specimen of which was reviewed by STC. Each label will include: etched metal with Arboretum name, botanical name, common name, STC logo, and a QR code fixed to tree with a stainless steel screw at eye height. Information for each tree's QR code has been compiled and includes source footnote. A memorial tree has been planted to add to the Arboretum's roster: a Metasequoia. The memorial plaque will be dedicated later.



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8. A brief report on the **Monmouth County Shade Tree Symposium** of April 6 held at the Fire Academy: there were several complaints from citizens when JCP&L did required pruning in town recently. At our request, JCP&L is willing to make a presentation to STC by one of its arborist/certified tree experts prior to future pruning. This should make STC more knowledgeable in fielding future complaints of this nature. A second discussion covered invasive species including the Emerald Ash Borer, Viburnum Leaf Beetle, Spotted Lanternfly, Southern Pine Beetle, and the Gypsy moth.

Motion to adjourn

Motion by J. Nicoletti to adjourn, 2nd by G. Boak, all in favor
All in favor. Meeting adjourned 21:05.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. O'Malley, *Secretary*
7, April 2016