

Minutes Colts Neck Shade Tree Commission Feb 1 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM at Town Hall by Ms. Stivala, Chair, who then read the Open Meeting Statement.

Attendance: Present: Ms Stivala, Dr Boak, Ms Eastman, Mr. Hammond, Dr Martin, Mr Nicoletti, Ms Riley. Absent: Ms O'Malley. Also present: Mr Viola, Mr Lauro.
Guest: Mr Domidion

The **minutes** of the STC meeting of Jan 11 2018 were approved.

Old Business

Ms. Riley took the oath of office for STC member administered by Mr. Viola, Township Committeeman and liaison to STC.

Source Brewing plans: no new information

Revolutionary Road development: Dr. Martin visited the property this week with Mr. Dominion, the owner and seller looking for specimen trees. No specimen trees were identified, but there is mature and secondary grown forrest on much of the property. Mr Dominion opined that many of these natives such as Ilex would be useful to the developer in landscaping the subdivision. A tree inventory is apparently being sought by the Planning Board. STC requested of Mr. Viola that we be informed of the contents when completed to review for the presence of any specimen trees we might want to recommend preserving. STC also requests reviewing any Removal Plan which may be submitted. Mr. Hammond volunteered to revisit the site this week with Mr. Dominion with these thoughts in mind.

New Business

Mr. Hammond moved, Dr. Boak seconded and the Commission unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Nicoletti as Vice Chair for 2018. Mr Nicoletti accepted the appointment.

Leland Professional Plaza parking lot: no landscaping plan was submitted so STC took no action.

STC 2018 preliminary Budget was presented to STC members by Ms. Stivala. Final action awaits approval by the Township Committee later the spring.

Mr. Hammond pointed out that the 2 two year guarantee for new plantings was normally applied to home owners doing remediation. That applying it to new development would result in extra charges by the landscape supply vendors. That the usual requirement for new development landscaping was 1 year. (see minutes of Jan 2018 re: Source Brewing application). Since STC has not yet approved the plans it will be able to revisit the 2 year stipulation when the additional information requested from Source Brewing by STC has been received.

A complaint about a leaning tree was received from Dottie Gibson of 15 Primrose Lane. The tree is a township tree. This is the same complaint as was received and evaluated in November. Evaluation by code enforcement at that time found that the tree was too large to 'stake up' as the resident had requested, did not pose an imminent threat or danger and that nothing further needed to be done. Ms. Gibson at that time was informed of the evaluation and recommendation at that time. At present reevaluation does not reveal any material change in the status of the tree. Therefore, STC has no reason to change its previous recommendation, and no further action is needed.

Arboretum report

Mr. Lauro had several recommendations regarding specific trees to replace the 4 trees lost on the core site and the Arboretum last year. In replacing the trees there is also the goal of increasing the diversity of trees within the Arboretum subject to their availability. After some discussion, STC recommends acquiring a Magnolia illuminate (cucumber tree), a London Plane tree, an American Hazelnut, and a Sassafras albidum. Specimens should be at least 2" caliper. Mr. Lauro will report back with costs and local suppliers with a view to planting this spring, subject to our budgetary limitations.

Liaison Report

Mr. Viola stated that the Twp Committee had formally adopted the attendance requirement policy he reviewed with STC at last meeting. He also mentioned a preliminary plan to 'beautify' the lake front on which Town Hall looks. There are no specifics yet, but he stated that STC would be a participant in developing the plans especially in view of the fact that this lies within the boundaries of the Town Hall Arboretum over which STC has responsibility. He also stressed the need for prompt action by STC if a hazardous situation was reported involving a tree. That in such situations maintaining public safety is critical as is minimizing township liability. He cited a recent situation in which such a critical situation was identified and corrected most promptly and commendably. STC agrees that in such situations where STC action is needed Ms. Stivala and Mr. Nicholetti would be notified by Ms. Capristo and orchestrate STC actions (as they have in the past).

There being no further business, the meeting was **adjourned** at 9:00 PM
Gordon Boak, acting secretary