

Minutes, Colts Neck Shade Tree Commission March 1 2018

Meeting was called to order by Ms. Stivala, Chair, who read the Open Meetings statement.

Attendance: Present: Stivala, Boak, Eastman, Hammond, Martin, Riley, Vito Viola.

Also present: T. Lauro, landscape architect, Mike Viola Twp Liaison, and as a private citizen Mr. Rizzuto.

Absent but excused: Nicoletti, O'Malley.

Minutes of the previous meeting of Feb 1 2018 were approved as submitted.

Vito Viola, newly appointed STC member, was welcomed and sworn in by Mike Viola Twp Committeeman and STC liaison.

At Ms. Stivala's suggestion, each member gave a brief self-bio to the group.

Old business

Revolutionary Drive: STC recommends that the 75 foot easement be preserved and that to the extent possible, mature trees on the property be preserved by the developer. In view of the Planning Board's denial of the current proposal to develop the property, further STC action is tabled, pending Planning Board approval.

STC through its liaison made known its disappointment that STC was not notified of Planning Board action on the property and asks to be kept informed of any Planning Board actions on every proper going forward.

New Business

Raven Road: dead or dying mature street trees noted. On inspection found to be due to girdling and inappropriate use of mulch. The trees as such pose no present danger. Ms. Stivala will notify homeowners of appropriate remedial tree care in attempt to save the trees that are there.

Creamery Road: a leaning tree should be removed, but is no immediate threat. Ms. Stivala to notify Ms Capristo so that DPW can remedy the situation.

Belanger Car Wash: for information only; no landscape plans submitted.

Rt 34 Car Wash: tabled: two River Engineering did not provide key to landscape information provided.

New office building: information only: no landscape plan provided.

Arboretum Report

Mr. Lauro provided list of Nurseries providing trees that the Arboretum could use to diversify its plantings and which were agreed on at the last meeting. STC agreed to ask for 1 or 2 Planetrees, 1 cucumber tree, and as a back up one paperbark birch (depending on costs and budget). Mr. Hammond provided a list 4 of responsible local Landscaping companies. Dr. Boak will contact these landscapers to ask for bids to be provided within 60 days using the selected trees. Plantings to be this spring or fall and guaranteed for one year.

The trees selected are: 1. Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood' or London Planetree; 2. Magnolia acuminata x denudata 'Butterflies' or butterfly magnolia or cucumber tree; and as the alternate 3. Betula papyrifera or Paperbark birch.

Ms. Riley offered to pursue grant options for the arboretum to enhance funding and upkeep.

Developing a memorial tree program for the arboretum was discussed as a way to fund an increase the diversity of the arboretum's flora and replace lost trees. Ms. Stivala will develop this idea further.

An arboretum work session will be held March 26, Monday, starting at 8:00am in the town hall parking lot to survey winter damage and remediation needs.

Possibilities for a memorial tree program for the arboretum were discussed. Ms. Stivala will pursue that.

Liaison:

Mr. Viola updated us on current school security activities in our schools. He mentioned that the town logo is being redesigned and when finished will become a standard for the town.

Adjournment:

moved seconded and passed at 9 PM.