

MINUTES
PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Thursday, January 24, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission was held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 in Monument Hall.

PRESENT: Sharon Ainsworth, Pat Frawley, Steve Hiltner, Pam Machold,
May Papastephanou, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Lily Krauss

ALSO PRESENT: Jenny Crumiller, Council Liaison
Greg O’Neil, Arborist/Open Space Manager
Janice Most, Secretary

OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. O’Neil stated that adequate notice of the time and place of this Regular Monthly Meeting was provided in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Act, opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

As a “get to know you,” Mr. O’Neil requested that each member and staff state their name and prior affiliation to previous Shade Tree Commissions of either the Borough of Princeton or Princeton Township.

Mr. O’Neil passed out to each member the Oath of Office, which each member signed and returned.

Mr. O’Neil passed out to each member the Princeton Board, Commission and Committee Members’ Handbook 2013.

REORGANIZATION

Election of Officers

Election of Chair – Mr. O’Neil called for nominations for Chair.

Discussion ensued concerning members who were not present and that members present did not

know each other well enough to make a decision for Chair or other Officers. It was decided that members gather at Small World Coffee (located on Nassau Street) on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. for a “meet and greet,” and the election of officers would take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A special meeting notice will be prepared and distributed by staff in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Public Meetings Act.

Resolution Providing for Adequate Notice of Meeting
Resolution of Fixing Charge for Meeting Notice
Meeting Schedule for 2013

Members reviewed the 2013 and January 2014 Schedule of Regular Meetings. All were in favor of calling a recess for the August meeting.

Ms. Machold moved to approve the 2013 and January 2014 Schedule of Regular Meetings as amended; Fixing Charge of Meeting Notices; and, Providing for Adequate Notice of Meetings as presented. Ms. Ainsworth seconded. The Motion passed unanimously. The approved documents are a part of these Minutes.

Agenda Items for 2013

1. Mr. O’Neil stated that the most important issue the Commission needs to address this year is melding the Borough Tree Ordinance and Township Tree Ordinance into one. He passed out a copy of each Ordinance to each member to review prior to the next meeting. He stated that basically each Ordinance is the same except that the Borough Ordinance requires a \$50 per application fee and immediate adjacent property owner notification. Discussion ensued concerning the notification process and how it does/does not give neighbors ownership over property owners decisions; the \$50 per application fee; the Borough application having the implication of overburdening residents.
2. Mr. O’Neil stated that the Arbor Day Celebration will be Friday April 26, 2013. Discussion ensued concerning the Garden Club donation of \$2,190 to the Commission in 2012. Mr. O’Neil will contact Barbara Trelstad to discuss.
3. Davey Tree Keeper (Tree Inventory) – Mr. O’Neil stated that the Borough portion is complete. The Township hired the University of Pennsylvania. Discussion ensued concerning updating to one whole. Mr. O’Neil stated he will be responsible for updating.
4. Mr. O’Neil stated that the Borough has 2,600 trees; the Township 20,000.
5. Spring Planting – Mr. O’Neil stated that specification will be completed and put out to bid and noted the bid timeline. There are no costs to homeowners for the plantings.

6. Discussion ensued concerning Commission members responsibilities. Ms. Crumiller stated that Borough members would each cover a section of town to keep an eye on tree issues.

7. Ms. Crumiller stated that replacing trees lost in Super Storm Sandy should take precedence over resident's requests. Mr. O'Neil stated that if this were the case the focus would be the parks. Discussion ensued concerning funding of tree replacement; looking to the future, not just replacing; downtown tree placements and focus of diversity of trees; not planting in the wetland preserves; and, small and large tree placements. Mr. O'Neil stated that there is a 400 gallon water truck for new planting watering.

8. Ms. Ainsworth stated that Communiversity is Sunday, April 28, 2013. In the past, the Borough Shade Tree Commission and the Master Gardeners shared booth space. This year can be the same.

9. Ms. Crumiller passed out the 2012 Borough Shade Tree Commission Annual Report.

10. Mr. O'Neil stated and explained the one legal issue that will carry to the new Commission.

11. Shade Tree Federation – Mr. O'Neil stated that only five members are allowed. He will look into additional membership.

CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

ARBORIST'S REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted February 4, 2013
Janice Most, Secretary

Approved February 28, 2013 by Motion to Approve by P. Machold and Affirmation of all Members present.