



PRINCETON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES Tuesday, December 15, 2015

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) was convened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 in Monument Hall. S. Ainsworth opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the Law, Notice was provided of the date, time and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted Schedule of Regular Meetings in the Monument Hall and Witherspoon Buildings, by mailing copies to the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet, and Town Topics and by filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk of Princeton.

PRESENT: Sharon Ainsworth, Joanne Diez, Pat Frawley, Steve Hiltner, Lily Krauss, Pam Machold, Bernie Miller, Janet Stern

ABSENT: Victoria Airgood, Alexandra Radbil

ALSO PRESENT: Lorraine Konopka, Arborist; Janice Most, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Raymond Devoe, 422 Snowden Lane thanked the Commission for the help with the neighboring property and in particular for the site visit L. Konopka and J. West made. Everything seems to be working out.

BUDGET

Nothing new to report.

BUSINESS

49 Lovers Lane Tree Removal

L. Konopka stated that the property owner had a family emergency and could not attend this meeting and that she would give a summary of the application for tree removals and because of the amount of removals requested felt it best to be brought to the Commission. She presented a plan (depicting the trees by number) and a letter from Woodwinds for review. L. Konopka also stated that during a site visit the following was observed: the site sits on Lovers Lane across from Marquand Park and the back yard, which is heavily treed, backs up to Drumthwacket; currently the driveway loops to the garage and the applicant would like to realign the curved driveway to create a street entrance directly to the front facade of the dwelling; there are trees in the front right-of-way which form a buffer from the dwelling to the street; the Magnolias in the back will be removed, and a pool will be installed. L. Konopka also stated that the applicant wishes to preserve as many trees as possible and the Commission's focus is on the right-of-way tree removals where all costs associated with the removals will be the responsibility of the property owner.

The Commission reviewed the plans and letter and discussion ensued concerning L. Konopka recommendations: tree #836 which the applicant wanted to preserve, but because it dwarfs the dwelling will need to be removed; tree #731 and #735 are in bad condition and can be removed; tree #703 a large healthy Beech will stay; tree #708 and tree #836 to be removed for construction; tree #716, a Beech which had extensive damage during Hurricane Sandy and tree #717, a Cherry which leans significantly towards the home should be removed. Discussion continued concerning: 30% or more of tree replacements will be native species; moving the cabana away from trees and location of electrical lines. The Commission stated that the driveway cannot be aligned with the entrance drive to Marquand Park.

L. Krauss moved to support the Arborist's decisions. P. Frawley seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

30 Maclean Street site Plan Memorandum Review

The Commission reviewed the December 14, 2015 memorandum to the Planning Board.

P. Frawley moved to approve the memorandum as amended. P. Machold seconded. The Motion passes unanimously.

Nassau Street DOT Project Species Selection

L. Konopka stated that she and S. Ainsworth rewalked the project area and she and L. Krauss and J. Diez mapped out the locations (diagram was presented hanging on the wall).

L. Konopka explained the diagram depicting upper and lower Nassau Street with the proposed areas and replanting species. Discussion ensued concerning: rational for replacements; no plantings at metered spots; existing trees; being aware of mono-culture; if anyone is interested, L. Krauss has a list of replanting's.

Ordinance Revisions

J. Stern stated that she and V. Airgood had heard from various members with their thoughts for Ordinance revisions of the particular sections being worked on. There was discussion of the revisions and an updated draft will be discussed at the next meeting.

Davey TreeKeeper Inventory Update/Mobile TreeKeeper

S. Ainsworth described how the Davey Mobile Tree Keeper works and invited members to visit the site: mobile.daveytreekeeper.com.

Other

S. Ainsworth stated that the Annual Report is upcoming and the Commission is at 800 hours of volunteer time. She reminded those that have not submitted their hours to please do so.

S. Ainsworth stated that the new brochure Princeton Trees – Key Facts You Should Know is now on the website.

There was discussion about putting a disclaimer on the updated Tree List. S. Ainsworth stated V. Airgood is working on a disclaimer to use.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m. P. Frawley moved to adjourn the meeting. L. Krauss seconded.
The Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted January 20, 2016
Janice S. Most

Adopted: January 26, 2016