

## Environmental & Shade Tree Committee Agenda

January 8, 2009

### Members Present:

APPROVED FEB 18 2009

Mario Andre, Ted Duran, Jim Hutchison, John Frost, Jessie Basner, Paul Zelanko, and Patrick Pisano (2<sup>nd</sup> alternate).

Members Not Present: Brian Racin, Mike Clancy, Shenetta Smith

### 1) Approve meeting minutes for 11/13/08 and 12/11/08.

The minutes for 11/13/08 and 12/11/08 were approved by the committee. Paul motioned to approve and Jessie seconded. All in favor.

### 2) Review advertisement ideas for planter name plates.

Planter on Main St. The name plates will have "Sponsored by" with name in the middle. On the very bottom in smaller font will be Environmental Shade Tree Commission. Mario spoke with a few places that seem interested in having them in front of their businesses. The responsibilities of the merchants are to maintain the planter but the town will put the plants in the planter. If the owner wants to supply their own plants, as long as there are "nice", then the township will allow this.

#### Action Item's:

- Mario and John will go door to door to ask merchants to sponsor the planters in front of their stores.
- John to provide a sample of the name tag and get it approved by Andy Salerno.
- Paul is going to get the sample. To have the nameplate approved by Andy Salerno.

### 3) Review the trees previously approved by commission

East Brunswick is planting smaller flowering trees. Paul suggested changing the ordinance prior to selecting a new tree. Mario would like to identify a tree prior to changing the ordinance to persuade the adoption of the ordinance. It is unclear why the ordinance does not currently allow the trees removed to replant.

The tree review has been suspended until the Spring as it is difficult to review whether a tree is dead or disease in the winter. However, Paul suggested that applications submitted regarding tree lifting the sidewalk or is in the electrical lines, we do not need to assess the tree condition. A suggestion by John was to lift the sidewalk, cut the roots back and redo the portion of the sidewalk affected. 143 Johnson Place has a problem with her insurance because the sidewalk is lifting. The homeowner wants the tree removed, rather than the roots being trimmed and the sidewalk being replaced. We need to establish the Borough's position on curbside tree planting. The committee will then develop an approach/methodology.

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### Action Item's:

- Jim will follow up as to why the ordinance does not currently allow the trees removed to replant.
- Jessie is to look at the Bylaws and suggest wording as to allowing replanting.

#### **4) Bring commission up to date on new news involving line items 3, 4, 5, 7.1, 7.2,7.4, and in regard to the trust fund from the previous meeting.**

Options for compost pile – Andy did not want this due to litigation concerns. John spoke with someone in Milltown re: their compost pile. The township provides a truck to pick up the leaves. Our leaves go to the dump. Milltown does a bag system to prevent cleaning out the storm drains.

Recycling needs to be reassessed as cardboard should be recycled.

### Action Item's:

- Jim is going to bring up as new business regarding a borough assessable compost pile.
- Ted to develop a document consisting of ideas as well as short and long-term goals.

#### **5) Items to be reviewed for discussion at next meeting 12-11-08 (no particular order)**

##### **1) Review list grants available by the government**

The committee needs to start looking at other grants that may be available due to time constraints.

### Action Item's:

- Patrick to conduct research of grants.
- Mario heard of a site that provides information on "free" grants and will distribute that information.

##### **2) Look into changing curb tree code & possibly grow our own trees to plant**

The team discussed that this could be a potential issue and is not recommended. The team also recommended that we should have a nursery care for the trees.

##### **3) Look into a developers tree fund**

### Action Item's:

- Mike Clancy to review a developer's tree fund since he is on the planning board.

##### **4) Look into developing a better page for our web site.**

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Mario spoke with Andy who said that he would deny any change as he wants the entire Borough's website to be the same.

Action Item's:

- Mario to follow up with Andy again regarding this topic.

**5) Start reviewing the plans for Memorial Day parade.**

Mario is looking for volunteers to coordinate the ESTC's participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

**6) Follow up on screens/barriers for storm water drains and where new construction is proposed to be done**

**6) Other Business discussed during the meeting:**

**Bylaws** – Jessie will look for bylaws to amend. If not she will contact Jim Hutchinson to obtain a sample to amend and insert an attendance requirement.

**Secretary:** Ted was nominated as secretary. It was seconded by Jessie Basner. All in attendance approved the nomination.

Earth Day is top of the list in priorities as it is coming up quickly. Mario is looking for volunteers to coordinate this event. The committee is also looking into buying saplings. John suggested finding a nursery to care for the trees, Mario volunteered to do this but Paul felt this was premature. The property by Dailey's Pond is not conditioned to grow any trees. Ted suggested that this should be in our goals for 2009 to allow further research.

Next meeting will be 2/12/09.