



STAC Minutes of Meeting 12 February 2003

Attending: Carol Avelsgaard, Ruth Bowers, Arny Galpern, Arnold Henderson, Nathan Imm, Gary Minkoff, Rob Roslewicz, Karen Swaine, George Winnett

Minutes for January 2003 were approved with minor corrections

BUSINESS

2002 CSIP Tree Maintenance Grant (Awarded). Pruning has in principle begun (Gary Lovallo, contractor) but has a weather delay at present. Ruth will keep in touch with Frank Troy of DPW so we can follow progress.

2003 CSIP Tree Maintenance Grant (Application). We are waiting to hear.

Recreational Trails Grant for Trail to Donaldson Park (Seeking Contractor). Carol reported on contractor price quotes sought by the subcommittee (Carol plus Loren Muldowney of Environmental Commission). Arnold reported that Steve Barnes, Director of the Rahway River Association and a Highland Park resident, has volunteered to help us select plantings. Options discussed were:

1. One contractor does all. We are promised such a quote from a landscape architect we have worked with. This would have a single party responsible for all.
2. No contractor for design. DPW designs trail, Steve (with STAC) designs plantings pro bono. No single party is responsible for all. We need to learn DPW's capabilities (particularly erosion control design). Would this save *design* fees and free more money for *plants* (assuming DEP OKs)?
3. Contractor for trail design only. Two price quotes have been received (trail design only). Steve would do planting design with us but we would have to hire workers for construction and planting (unless DPW does all that). Again, no single party is responsible for the whole.

In discussion, one feeling was that past practice of hiring a single contractor for all aspects (or all except planting design by STAC) gives clarity and simple recourse if something fails. When we get the promised quote (full job), we will meet with the borough administrator plus DPW and/or the borough engineer.

Budget Request for 2003. We are waiting to hear if the borough will repeat last year's \$550. Cuts are expected, but perhaps not in small committee budgets.

Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting; CEU's. Forms received from the state show four people in town credited with core training (Frank Troy of DPW, Arnold Henderson, ShayMaria Silvestri, and a resident we do not know). This qualifies us for CSIP grants (which require one employee and one volunteer core trained). Additionally, two individuals must earn continuing education units each year, usually at the STF Annual Meeting. Courses are sometimes available at other times, and we received an announcement for a core training course.

Community Day/Street Fair (Plant Sale). April 27 is the date. The subcommittee of Nathan, Ruth, and Karen have arranged for several nurseries to supply plants under various terms. Mapleton Nurseries can bring an entire flatbed truck of plants for sale with a portion of proceeds to us. They also offered their bluegrass band for hire, and we will ask the borough to hire them. Other nurseries have excess plants they will donate outright or plants for consignment sales, no risk to us. Our focus is fundraising, but “leftover” plants could be put in public spaces if there is no cost to us. Actions: 1) Nathan will put in our application for a table near some parking area for plant pickup by car: probably old Senior Center or Unity Bank. 2) The subcommittee will select some species to list in a pamphlet for preordering. 3) Arny do other arrangements for the street fair aside from the plant sale (find who will sit table, bring table and chairs from pump house or elsewhere, etc.). 4) Arnold (who will be away April 27) will transfer file drawers and boxes of pamphlets to Arny for STAC and Environmental Commission, whose table should be near ours. 5) Ruth, Karen, and Arny will try to prepare a tree brochure (Main Street trees; remarkable trees; etc.). 6) Bird houses will be built by seniors and five other volunteers Nathan found. These will be sold to raise funds; leftovers may be put up in public open space or saved for sale later. A prison birdhouse-building program exists; we could contact them next year.

Fundraising. The Fund for Highland Park. Arny talked with Walter Deutsch of Unity Bank about setting up an account for donations we might receive via the tax-exempt Fund for Highland Park or other routes. Gary Minkoff reported that Borough Administrator Rich Kunze needs to OK any arrangement since the state puts various legal obligations on the municipality (and by extension its volunteer committees). Ruth, Nathan, and Arnold will meet with Rich and Gary to discuss.

Reconstruction of Cedar Lane/River Road Intersection. Plants to Save? The county’s November 2002 plans for five alternate reconstructions of this intersection were found in borough files and Arnold brought photocopies of key areas. Some alternates apparently remove trees and shrubs from the edge of the Rutgers Ecological Preserve, Johnson Park, and The Cenacle. “Rescuing” plants is rarely practical for anything of much size and is less desirable than either not cutting in the first place or arranging with the county to fund replacements elsewhere in the borough. STAC will follow developments.

CDBG Grant (Application). We should hear before long if we will again have a share of whatever funds the state grants the borough. We would then have to survey eligible streets on the CDBG map. Arny will find out the borough’s decision on funds.

Membership. We have four vacancies and are recommending to the mayor the names of three long-time attendees who have not yet officially been made members.

Next Meeting: Wed., 12 March 2003, 8:00 p.m., Borough Hall.