



Minutes of STAC Meeting 10 September 2003

Attending: Ruth Bowers, Amy Galpern, Arnold Henderson, Rob Roslewicz, Karen Swaine

Call to Order 8:10 p.m. Minutes for July 2003 were approved as written. There was no August meeting.

Grant Received: 2003 Middlesex County Urban Forestry Streetscape Planting. The amount will be \$9840.22, plus boro match (cash? Frank Troy's or STAC's labor?). We need to find tree sites soon, trying for 40+ sites to cover this grant, CDBG money if available by fall, and perhaps the boro planting fund, which could count as grant match. Actions:

- 1) Ruth will get DPW's list of tree requests, contact Urban Forestry, and supply what the agency needs.
- 2) Rob will check the homeowner-request list that Ruth obtains from Linda Monte at DPW and will select species.
- 3) Karen will survey the Northside area of Cleveland to Lincoln and River Road to North Fourth to find sites.
- 4) Rob will survey the Southside area of Magnolia, Benner (from S. Third to western border), including north side of Johnson Street, and the site he already knows for five trees on Cliff Court.
- 5) Amy will survey a similar area from the south side of Johnson Street to Donaldson Park.
- 6) Ruth and Arnold will fill in later if more sites are needed, or to get wider distribution.

Tree Replacements. Ruth will check with Frank Troy of DPW to verify that trees used are fall-plantable.

- 1) Replacements from 2002 Silagy plantings. This is a straightforward contract that Silagy will do this October.
- 2) Replacements from Twin Cedars failed earlier plantings. The borough hopes to assign Silagy these too. This involves transferring work from one firm to another and may take time to contract. STAC feels homeowners have waited too long already. Using borough funds now could add the trees to the Silagy contract, hoping later to repay from Twin Cedars' bond. Planting this fall is the goal.

Trail Grant Update. Loren Muldowney of the Environmental Commission received the landscape architect's drawings for the trail alongside DPW to Donaldson Park. She and Arnold oversaw advance clearing of brush and Ailanthus trees by labor from the Middlesex County Department of Adult Corrections, 8 September. Nearby areas of the bikeway were weeded, and a path mowed into the meadow. Fothergilla and blueberry bushes were rescued and mulched.

Community Forestry Status Report & Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting. For grant eligibility, Highland Park needs at least two representatives (one DPW employee, one volunteer) to attend courses Oct. 24-25 (the 26th is a business meeting we need not attend). We had understood that each year's eligibility depended on the previous year's attendance, and Ruth will verify. (We have a CSIP grant application pending for continued pruning of street trees.) Our attendees must sign up with the federation by October 1. Karen and Rob are considering; Arnold could be a backup. Ruth will ask DPW who they are sending; we hope Frank Troy continues courses, his new assistant be core-trained.

River Road/Native Plant Reserve: Removal of Invasive Plants. Arnold, as chair of the Environmental Education Centers Working Group, has recommended that DPW hire a licensed pesticide applicator to spray Japanese knotweed and other invasives that need to be substantially reduced, if not eliminated fully, before new plantings and path construction cross those areas. The invasives have already been weakened by cutting, and DEP recommends glyphosate herbicide in natural areas like this. The Rodeo formulation is waterbased and can be used where it may enter natural water systems, while the Roundup formulation includes a surfactant that helps in its delivery but could injure aquatic life, making it the choice only in upland sites. Rob knows of an alternative herbicide often recommended and will find information to be shared with Rich Kunze, DPW's Lloyd Young, and Arnold.

Plants Available. Karen has access to several winterberry holly and other plants (some native, some not) that she offers to people for their own yards or for the Native Plant Reserve. She needs someone to help in any plantings at the NPR.

Announcements: 1) Nurseries. *Spooky Brook Nursery* tree sale this week, Amwell Road near Colonial Park. *Steinbeiser Nursery* specializes in native trees and shrubs, is also having a sale, and could raise native trees for municipal plantings.

2) Intern. The borough's intern, Stella Orimilikwe, is coordinating efforts by schools and the borough to share facilities and might help arrange school-related environmental programs at the Native Plant Reserve.

3) Design of the environmental/nature center at River Road. Arnold spoke with Linda Barie of MKW. Design has been on hold for August vacations. Arnold asked her to circulate ideas and sketches by email prior to formal meetings.

4) Picnic. Amy suggests resuming our annual picnic sometime in October and will send an email.

Adjourned 9:58 p.m. NEXT MEETING: 8 October, 8 p.m. Boro Hall (email before: must survey proposed sites, take stakes).