



## Minutes of March 10, 2004

Attending: C. Avelsgaard, R. Bowers, R. Cala, A. Galpern, A. Henderson, G. Minkoff, R. Roslewicz, K. Swaine.

Guest Speaker: Harvey Brudner. Guest Resident: Daniel Tainow

Meeting Commenced at 8:00 p.m.

**Planting of Kilmer Oak.** Dr. Brudner is a long-time Highland Park resident and an individual dedicated to keeping alive the memory and legacy of journalist and poet, Joyce Kilmer. Kilmer, who died in WWI, is most famous for the poem "Trees". Kilmer has a Highland Park connection in that he spent much of his time here. His father headed the Johnson & Johnson research department. As Highland Park will be celebrating its centennial in 2005, Dr. Brudner and STAC agree it would be appropriate to plant a propagated descendent tree from the White Oak that was the inspiration for the Kilmer poem. The planting ceremony would be held on June 15, 2004. This would allow the tree to be well established for the centennial. The most likely location will be the Highland Park High School grounds. Ruth Bowers, Carol Avelsgaard and Jody Karch will survey the area for the best site, as this tree will grow to be wide spreading and quite large. The actual planting day will begin in New Brunswick at 17 Kilmer Avenue (the Kilmer residence when the poem was written), move to the Dough Boy statute commemorating WWI veterans in Highland Park and then to the high school grounds. We should have as much media coverage and as many people attending as possible.

### February Minutes Approved.

#### Street Tree Plantings for 2004 (Combined Urban Forestry grant & CDBG)

- 33 Sites have been listed for planting based on owner requests, with an anticipated cost of \$300.00 per tree. Another 30 sites will be recommended by STAC so as to have enough CDBG sites to use up both funding sources (approx. \$10,000 each) in the one planting.
- Whether bids are necessary will be determined by Gary Minkoff, since our cooperative "green" purchasing with Rutgers may be able to include plantings. If not going to bid, a spring planting may be possible. Gary will coordinate with the borough administrator. Frank Troy-DPW, will be project manager.

**Replacement of Past Failed Tree Plantings.** The contractor, Twin Cedars, still contends he does not have to replace or pay for dead trees from the planting a few years back, which leaves the issue in the hands of lawyers.

#### Street Fair April 25, 2004.

- Arnold Henderson will provide backyard wildlife information as it pertains to plants.
- Possibility for native bird posters from Shay Maria Silvestri.
- Karen Swaine and Ruth Bowers are investigating a plant sale. However, we don't want more plants than we can sell. Plant provider does not want to give us plants on a consignment basis; therefore, we should be prepared to absorb plants not sold. These will be native plants, only. Saplings will also be available as giveaways. Posters illustrating the negative effects of the "volcano" school of mulching will be on the table.

**Volunteer Appreciation Night-April 28, 2004.** As this event follows so closely on the Street Fair, our table could continue with the same information as well as the recruitment of interested parties.

**Manual and Calendar.** Carol Avelsgaard continuing to work on this issue.

**Environmental Center.** Negotiations still on-going to determine what funds can be made available and hence how much of the conceptual plan can be realized at this time. Whatever the ultimate plan will be, STAC supervision will be necessary during construction and planting. Care must be taken to avoid destruction of good plants while eliminating weeds and invasive growth.

**Tree Ordinance revisions.** Potential revisions to the recently passed ordinance regulating the planting, pruning, or removal by residents of trees in the borough right of way were circulated to STAC members for review. Henderson and Minkoff are rewording and redefining certain statements to allow residents to plant trees without legal entanglement. These few word changes will be passed before the attorney and rewritten accordingly.

**Meeting adjourned** 10:15 p.m. Next meeting April 14, 2004, 8 p.m. Borough Hall.