



Minutes of STAC Meeting, 12 January 2005

Attending: Carol Avelsgaard, Ruth Bowers, Arny Galpern, Arnold Henderson, Karen Swain.

Guest: Gary Minkoff

Meeting Commenced: 7:45 p.m. **December Minutes:** approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Plant Order & Work Days for Native Plant Reserve. A purchase order on the 2004 budget was drawn for Bluestone Perennials. Karen is processing the order for 12 each of the following native plants, expected to arrive around April 11: *Agastache cana*; *Aster oblongifolia* 'Raydon's Favorite'; *Coreopsis verticillata*; *Gaura lindheimeri*; *Lobelia cardinalis*; *Lobelia siphilitica*. We will need to schedule a work day, perhaps late March, to remove weeds and prepare the ground, then another to plant these flowers.

Update of Street Tree Inventory. On hold. The Borough decided not to submit at this time a grant application the Environmental Commission had prepared for the same program of Environmental Commission grants originally used to create the first phase of the tree inventory. It may be possible instead for DPW and its tree contractor to provide some measure of inventory updating alongside their regular work. One key to successful updating will be to use the same location codes for work reports as in the inventory (currently A, B, C, etc. to indicate tree position left to right across that side of a property).

CDBG Planting Grant. Submitted, but late. Gary will find out if we are under consideration anyway and if we will be called to the meeting when the borough decides which proposals to send on to the state.

Bat Houses. Bat houses prepared by a youth group are available for mounting at the Native Plant Reserve. Karen pointed out that these are not usually fastened to trees but to structures (facing south). The lack of such a structure may cause us to reconsider whether the houses can go at the NPR or need some other site.

NEW BUSINESS

Enabling Resolution and Membership for 2005. The Borough Council has passed the required annual resolution continuing our committee and appointing members. Gary will convey to the borough clerk that our co-chairs are Carol Avelsgaard and Arnold Henderson, and that Susan Liebell has resigned. Gary Minkoff continues as STAC council liaison, and additionally will become the council representative for both the Environmental Center and the sculpture garden at the Native Plant Reserve.

Notice of Meetings. Karen will send the list of meeting dates to the required newspapers and borough clerk.

Entrance Park (Ex Limo Lot). Gary reported that Jennifer Senick, a consultant to Main Street, was preparing an application to the Green Acres program for the creation of this park at the town's west entrance. Arnold will write a support letter from STAC, Mike Rosenberg from the Environmental Commission.

Sculpture Garden. Grant money from Green Communities is promised for sculpture and a path at the Native Plant Reserve/Environmental Center. Gary will call a meeting in February with the mayor, borough administrator, Environmental Education Centers Working Group, representatives of the Zimmerli Museum at Rutgers and the state Council on the Arts, and perhaps others.

Environmental Center. Planning by our consultant, MKW, resumed late in 2004 after most of a year's gap while additional funds were being sought. Thus the last designs seen date from 20 January 2004. It is still hoped to go for bids soon and build in 2005. Gary is the new council representative for this project and will investigate the best way to proceed. Our thanks to Jon Erickson for his work in this role during 2004.

Community Forestry Program Annual Report (Due Feb. 15). Carol and Ruth will submit for 2004.

Tree City USA Application. Needs similar information as Community Forestry; Carol and Ruth will submit both.

Recreational Trail Grant Application (Lower Meadows). Arnold prepared and submitted this application to buy equipment and hire workers for grubbing out and marking a trail around this recovering natural area downstream of Donaldson Park. We should hear late next fall if accepted, then cooperate with the Environmental Commission on the work.

Asian Longhorned Beetle. We will discuss at the February meeting a campaign to encourage residents to inspect their trees and watch for this pest moving towards us from northern New Jersey. Arnold has a "wanted" poster and will bring copies to the February meeting for posting in shop windows and elsewhere.

Meeting Adjourned 9:25 p.m. **Next Meeting** February 9, 7:30 p.m., Borough Hall.