



## Minutes of STAC Meeting, 9 November 2005

Meeting commenced: 8:15 p.m. Attending: Carol Avelsgaard, Ruth Bowers, Arnold Henderson  
Minutes of the September meeting were approved (no meeting in October).

### OLD BUSINESS

**Shade Tree Federation.** Carol completed core training plus CEU's.

**Replacement Trees (Fall 2004 Planting).** Carol gave DPW our list of suspected dead/dying trees;

Gary Lovallo verified most for replacement, and the contractor, Louis Barbato, has the list.

**Cutting Wires on Street Trees.** This waits till spring, either by us or DPW.

**Environmental Center Construction.** Nick Trasente expects construction to start mid-November, with pedestrian crossing lights next Spring. It is not known if paths will be constructed this fall or next year, but when they are we should see that PVC pipes are buried for hoses under paths.

**Buck Woods Settlement for Unauthorized Tree Cutting.** No news. Arnold suggests replacing some on site but mostly by contribution to the tree fund (the ravine may someday be bulldozed).

**Twin Cedars Tree Replacements.** This is back in court. The October 31 deadline was missed so the Borough is requesting a cash settlement of somewhat over \$6,000.

**Intern for Updating Street Tree Inventory.** No reply from Rutgers/Cook yet. We do possess the State's CD-Rom with reports and queries thought useful, but if DPW lacks budget to do all the needed pruning, there may be no point in reporting the need. State grants were discontinued.

**Sign for Valley Place Ravine.** Ruth will contact Anthony Patti, who volunteered to make it.

**Tree/Sidewalk Law.** Gary Minkoff has a copy of Los Angeles standards that Arnold obtained. STAC hopes Borough Council could allow such alternatives to save trees.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Recreational Trails Grant Won.** The Borough has accepted the \$10,000 grant. Once the account is activated, we can buy the budgeted brush cutter and clear the field trail so workers can get in more easily. Our matching work by volunteers already includes Water Watch Nov. 6, and tentatively East Mountain Lodge of Carrier Clinic Nov. 27.

**Planting at Native Plant Reserve.** Ruth will purchase up to \$200 of inkberry holly to replace drought losses. If funds are left we can purchase tools and supplies.

**CDBG Grants.** Fifty-plus sites need to be found (25 requested in the 2004/5 application; 25 for 2005/6, plus "spares"). We do not yet know if we are receiving these grants but should be ready. We can save time by not choosing species in the initial list, just small/medium/large. Carol and Arnold will begin the listing Nov. 25.

**Cool Cities Plantings.** DEP will plant here soon, once finished in Trenton. Representatives told us tree purchases are handled statewide, picking trees available in large enough numbers to serve all the cities—explaining why so many Japanese cherries (on Woodbridge Ave. in 2005, upper Raritan 2006). They plan 105 trees for us this year, with more varied species for residential sites (mostly Orchard Heights). They will contact us about 2006 plans early next year.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Private Tree Plantings.** We have heard from Craig Cadmus on Raritan Avenue and from Pat Morris and Bill Bonner (donating a memorial tree at the NPR for Pat's son, spring 2006).

**Invasive Plants.** The DEP lists invasive plants on its web site and has an October 2004 policy not to plant these on land they manage or in DEP programs on other land. Our web site has a link.

**Tree Settlement.** The Borough settled damages for a branch that fell despite an earlier homeowner pruning request. This illustrates the need for more pruning funds.

**Adjourned:** 9:30 p.m.. Next meeting 14 December, 8 p.m., Borough Hall.