

Minutes of the 9th meeting of Maharashtra State Tree Authority held on 31st July 2023

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The Eighth Meeting of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority was held on 31st July 2023 at 12.00 PM under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, GOM, through video conferencing. The list of the Members present for the said meeting is as follows:

1. Mr. Pravin Darade, Chairman, Maharashtra State Tree Authority.
2. Mr. Vaibhav Raje, Expert Member, Maharashtra State Tree Authority.
3. Mr. Abhay Pimparkar, Director Environment & Member Secretary MSTA, Department of Environment & Climate Change

Invitation was sent to Hon. Secretary of Forest Department and Urban Development Department. However, there was no representation from Forest Department and Urban Development Department.

The Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, GoM, and Chairman of the Maharashtra State Tree Authority welcomed all the members of the Authority for the 9th Meeting of the State Tree Authority constituted under sub-section (A-1) of Section 3 of Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975.

The proposals for the 9th meeting had been submitted by the concerned planning authorities by following the due procedure given in the SOP. These details have been taken on record and accordingly, proposals were deliberated.



Chairman



Member Secretary

Item no.1

Subject: Permission for Cutting/transplanting of 382 Trees for construction of Phase II of sale building CTS-437 (Pt) to 356 (pt) of Dadar-Naigaon Div, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai marg 'Shree Azad Nagar CHS Ltd.' & 'Om Azad Nagar CHS Ltd.' F/N Ward, BMC

Introduction

The Project Proponent (Deputy Garden Superintendent of BMC) presented details of the project before the Maharashtra State Tree Authority (MSTA). The proposed project is for construction of Phase II of sale building CTS-437 (Pt) to 356 (pt) of Dadar-Naigaon Div, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai marg 'Shree Azad Nagar CHS Ltd.' & 'Om Azad Nagar CHS Ltd.' F/N Ward. In this proposal, 281 Nos. of trees are to be cut and 101 Nos. of trees are to be transplanted (total- 382 trees)

Deliberation of the MSTA

The proposal of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is for cutting of 281 Nos. of trees and Transplantation of 101 Nos. of trees for construction of Phase II of sale building CTS-437 (Pt) to 356 (pt) of Dadar-Naigaon Div, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai marg 'Shree Azad Nagar CHS Ltd.' & 'Om Azad Nagar CHS Ltd.' F/N Ward. The proposal was explained by the Deputy Garden Superintendent of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

Recommendations of the MSTA

After the detailed deliberation with the PP (Deputy Garden Superintendent of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation), the MSTA decided to grant permission to cut 281 Nos. of trees and to transplant 101 Nos. of trees subject to the following conditions:

1. PP to plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age (3872 Nos.) of the trees against 382 Nos. of trees proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project. BMC to ensure that PP provide 7 years maintenance plan.
2. PP to start plantation of tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project before starting any Tree Cutting.
3. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees by filling the gaps. Compensatory tree plantation should be strictly done within the jurisdiction of BMC.
4. PP to submit an indemnity bond indemnifying the MSTA from any legal consequences.
5. Monitoring of compensatory tree plantation should be carried out by local tree authority

Conclusion: Recommended



Chairman



Member Secretary

Item no.2

Subject – Regarding cutting/transplanting of 371 Trees (cutting 114 including 1 heritage tree & Transplanting 257 Trees including 13 heritage tree) for the construction of new station between Thane and Mulund.

Introduction:

The Project Proponent (Tree Officer, Thane Municipal Corporation) presented the project details to the Maharashtra State Tree Authority (MSTA). The proposed project is for the construction of new station between Thane and Mulund. In this proposal, 114 Nos. of trees including 1 heritage tree is to be cut and 257 Nos. of trees including 13 heritage trees are to be transplanted (total- 371 trees).

Deliberation of the MSTA

The proposal of Thane Municipal Corporation is for cutting of 114 Nos. of trees including 1 heritage tree & transplanting 257 Nos. of trees including 13 heritage trees for the construction of new station between Thane and Mulund. The proposal was explained by the Tree Officer of Thane Municipal Corporation.

During deliberations, The PP confirmed that the transplantation of the Heritage trees would be undertaken on the construction site of railway station so as to reduce long transportation time which may lead to decrease in the survival rate of transplanted Heritage trees. Transplantation of trees other than heritage trees will be undertaken at Thane side of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. PP also confirmed that the compensatory plantation will be undertaken at Mogharpada Reserve Plot 1 (Area- 7,310 sq.m). Total 7638 Nos. of trees proposed to be planted as a part of compensatory plantation.

Recommendations of the MSTA:

After the detailed deliberation with the PP (Tree Officer, Thane Municipal Corporation), the MSTA decided to grant permission to cut 114 Nos. of trees including 1 heritage tree & transplant 257 Nos. of trees including 13 heritage trees subject to the following conditions:

1. PP to plant new trees of native/indigenous species as part of compensatory tree plantation equivalent to the cumulative age of the trees which are proposed to be cut/transplanted under this project.
2. PP to start plantation of tree species which are not less than 6 feet in height as a part of compensatory plantation under this project before starting any Tree Cutting.
3. PP should ensure that the new trees planted as a part of the compensatory plantation should be geo-tagged and monitored using the latest technologies available and ensure that the trees survive for a minimum period of seven years, tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting an equal number of new trees by filling the gaps. Compensatory tree plantation should be done within the jurisdiction of TMC.
4. PP to submit an indemnity bond indemnifying the MSTA from any legal consequences.
5. Monitoring of compensatory tree plantation should be carried out by local tree authority

Conclusion: Recommended.


Chairman


Member Secretary