

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: K.Clark, L.Ferguson, K.Halpin, P.Huizenga, L.Starita

Absent: 0 Absent

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the "Open Public Meetings Act" read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Wednesday, March 11, 2009. A Motion was made by L. Starita and seconded by P. Huizenga that the minutes be approved with no corrections for the meeting of February 11, 2009.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Green Communities Grant- Paul Cowie & Associates responded to the Commission's request to keep their fee within the grant's \$3,000.00 allowance. They were agreeable to reducing their fee to \$3,750.00. In order to meet the grant's timeline to select a consultant, a Motion was made by L. Starita and seconded by K. Halpin to hire Paul Cowie & Associates to update the Borough's Community Forestry Mangement Plan.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0

2. 36 Grand Avenue- owners request to have 2 R.O.W. trees trimmed due to falling limbs. Jeremy Summitt evaluated both trees on this corner property. The Maple bordering on Grand Ave. appears to be structurally safe. It should be removed at a later date due to aesthetic reasons. The Red Maple bordering on West Stewart Street is a healthy tree but needs pruning to remove visible deadwood. A letter will go out to the homeowners stating these recommendations.
3. C.O.R.E. Training- L. Ferguson attended the Feb. 28th training session in Paramus. Lauren will now be eligible to earn CEU's by attending future workshops.
4. NJ Forestry Association- K. Clark researched the NJFA to decide if the annual \$40.00 membership was relevant to our community. The NJFA is a reputable

organization and offers valuable information. However, until the 2009 Budget is approved, the Commission will make this decision at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 108 N. Prospect St.- Owners (Kazimiez & Teresa Wojdyla) had a R.O.W. Pear Tree split from wind damage. Peterson & Son removed the damaged portion and recommended that the remaining section be removed at a later date. A letter went to the homeowners with this information.
2. 261 Carlton Ave.- Owner reported a large fallen limb due to high winds. Peterson & Son removed it when they were working at another location in town. No further action needed.
3. 22 Grand Ave.- Owner reported fallen limbs between his home and 26 Grand Ave. after high winds. Peterson & Son trimmed damaged tree and removed fallen branches. They recommended that the declining tree be removed at a later date. A letter went to the homeowners.
4. 183 E. Washington Ave.- Owner reported a declining tree with branches intertwined in overhead wires. L. Starita will check out the location and determine if JCP&L should be responsible for trimming the tree.
5. 102 Taylor Street- Owner (Shaun Heimall) and neighbor attended the meeting to discuss the R.O.W. Maple he requests to be removed. The tree was originally damaged by the severe storm on July 4, 2007. The Shade Tree Commission was not notified when that occurred. The owner had the tree significantly trimmed back after limbs fell on his neighbor's truck and onto the street on 2 separate occasions. There is evidence of carpenter ants in the tree's cavity which is also a concern to the owner. K. Halpin commented that the original damage should have been reported to the Commission directly after the storm. In the meantime, the Commission will get a quote from Peterson & Son for the removal. After the 2009 Budget is approved, the Commission will review this situation and notify the owner with the results.
6. 258 E. Washington Ave.-Owner inquired about removing his front tree. The Commission determined that it was not in the R.O.W. area and therefore the homeowner's responsibility. A letter was sent to the owner to confirm this issue.
7. Council Appearance- L. Starita will meet with the Borough Council on April 7. A current list of projected tree removals and trimming will be prepared to present to council at that time.
8. Borough Park Playground- Road Dept. Supervisor, John Burd called attention to tree stumps in the playground area that should be removed for safety. After the 2009 Budget is approved, the Commission will review this request. No action will be taken at this time.
9. 2008 Expenditures- The Cool Cities Community Grant original Purchase Order was entered into the Shade Tree Commission's Miscellaneous line item. It should have been posted into the account specifically created for the grant. When it was corrected, \$3,735.00 remained in the Shade Tree Miscellaneous account. This discrepancy will be addressed to the Finance Office so the funds are appropriated to the grant's account number.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by L. Starita and seconded by K. Clark that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming