

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2009

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

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

Absent: L. Ferguson

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, April 8, 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 March 11, 2009.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Green Communities Grant- Governing Body Resolution was sent to Joseph Bennett to complete the application for the grant. Our consultant, Paul Cowie will be contacted to start the Community Forestry Management Plan. The Shade Tree Commission will create a list of goals for the updated plan.
2. 183 E. Washington Avenue- Owners requested a Cedar tree trimmed, which included branches intertwined in overhead wires. K. Clark and L. Starita evaluated the location and determined that it was not a Borough tree. A letter will go out to the homeowners stating that it is their responsibility to maintain the tree. L. Starita suggested that the letter include JCP&L's website regarding tree trimming.
3. 102 Taylor Street- Owner had a hazardous R.O.W. tree trimmed and requested to have the remaining trunk removed. Peterson & Son quoted \$1,800 to remove the large trunk from this location. A letter will go out to the homeowner stating that his request will be reviewed after the 2009 budget is approved.
4. Council Appearance- L. Starita attended the April 7th Council Meeting to represent the Shade Tree Commission. Lou provided the council with an information sheet highlighting data from 2007, 2008 & 2009. The material provided insight to the Commissions' budget, accomplishments, and the list for perspective tree removals/trimming in 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 6 Christine Place- Owner plans to have front tree removed at her own expense due to declining condition. The Commission agreed to allow the homeowner to remove the tree. K. Halpin stated that the homeowner should provide the Commission with written notification of the professional service that was contracted.
2. 136 Railroad Avenue-Owner plans to have a declining tree removed at his own expense, but needs to confirm it is not a Borough tree. K. Clark reviewed the location of the tree and determined that it was not in the R.O.W. area. A letter will be mailed to the homeowner stating that he is responsible for maintaining the tree.
3. 98 Youmans Ave.- Owner requests to have a declining Norway Maple removed. It was originally evaluated in September 2008. No action was taken at that time due to budgetary reasons. K. Halpin will contact Jeremy Summitt to provide his expert opinion on the condition of this tree. A letter will be sent to the owner to notify him about this action.
4. 111 McDonald Street- Owner (Robert Davidson) sent a written request to have 2 dead Maple trees removed from his property. He would also like replacement trees. The house is located within sight of Memorial School and he is concerned about the potential hazard these trees are to children that walk along this path. A letter will go to the homeowner stating that his request will be added to the trim and removal list for 2009. It will be reviewed after this year's budget is approved.
5. Cool Cities Community Grant- K. Halpin commented that that the 56 tree plantings will be inspected by Joe Bennett on May 12 at 10:30a.m. Kathy Halpin will accompany Mr.Bennett during the inspection.
6. Arbor Day- April 24 is the official day. P. Huizenga will be ordering seedlings for Taylor Street kindergarten classes. K. Halpin will contact Mayor Scott McDonald to see if he is available to read the Proclamation for Arbor Day.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by L. Starita and seconded by P. Huizenga that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming