

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 p.m.

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

Absent: 0

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, June 10, 2009. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved with no corrections for the meeting of May 27, 2009.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cool Cities Community Grant- The Borough failed the tree planting inspection on May 29th. Grants Coordinator, Joe Bennett sited cages around the roots that should have been removed at the time of the plantings. In order to comply with the Grants' criteria, the Commission needs to remove 1/3 of the cages that were found. The other alternative is to submit a letter of responsibility from the Borough Manager as an agreement to maintain the 56 trees from the Cool Cities Grant. The Shade Tree Commission will also submit Status Reports over a 3 year period in order to track the condition of the trees.
The inspection also noted that 6 of the 56 trees were dead. The JML Landscaping will replace these with the same species at no additional cost.
2. 98 Lenape Trail- L. Starita attempted to contact the homeowners several times with no response. Their Norway Maple is on the 2009 Maintenance List. The Commission is waiting for the quote from Peterson & Son and the Borough's Budget to be approved before scheduling any further maintenance in town. L. Starita noted that the tree could be deteriorating due to the landscaping that was done around the Maple.
3. Proclamation- The Commission needs to contact Tree City USA to determine if an alternative date can be used to maintain approved status with them.

4. 52 Grand Avenue- Owner (Jenn Briganti) reported sidewalk & curb damage due to her R.O.W. tree. L. Starita will contact the owner after the quote from Peterson and Son is received.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Forestry Internship Program- L. Ferguson presented her volunteer/ internship program to the Borough Manager, Rich Phelan. He was very supportive of the idea but recommended that the Commission thoroughly explore the liability factor before continuing any further plans.
L. Ferguson also contacted Jason Grabosky from Rutgers University regarding the Internship. He was very agreeable to the idea and stated that Rutgers will provide the Commission with the insurance requirements so the Borough is not liable. The program would be available to only juniors and seniors. Apparently, Rutgers will offer college credits for volunteerism. The Commission would also have to develop a specific scope of work as species identification, disease diagnosis and possibly feeding/fertilizing and trimming. Arborist Consultant, Paul Cowie will be able to provide us with suggestions for setting up the criteria.

The Commission agreed to proceed with the following steps:

- Set up the scope of work
- Forward the schedule to Rutgers to receive feedback on the insurance needs
- Report back to the Borough Manager with Rutgers' response
- Commission Supervision/Commissioner would be assigned to accompany the Intern on site

2. Grants- L. Ferguson presented a variety of grant programs for the Shade Tree Commission to review. Due to the Borough's budget constraints, the Commission will consider these alternative resources for maintaining the town's trees.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming