

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2010

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

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

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, February 10, 2010. A Motion was made by P. Huizenga and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meeting of January 13, 2010.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Year End Community Status Report for 2009- The Shade Tree Commission has been awarded Approved Status by complying with the four requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. This report will be added to the Commission's files for reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Green Communities Grant- The \$3,000 award was received from the State Forestry Services on Jan 19, 2010. This was the final step in completing the Green Communities Grant. The Shade Tree Commission met all the requirements in updating the Community Forestry Management Plan which has been approved until 2014. The signed copy of the Plan will be stored in the Shade Tree Commission's file for future reference.
2. Annual Accomplishment Report- K. Halpin submitted the Annual Accomplishment Report to Todd Wyckoff in Trenton. This annual report is also necessary to maintain the recently awarded Business Stimulus Fund grant eligibility.
3. 2009 Business Stimulus Fund- The Shade Tree Commission was been awarded this Grant in the amount of \$7,000.00. The purpose of the BSF grant is to provide funds to assist Washington Borough in implementing projects that are identified in the Community Forestry Management Plan while stimulating the economy of New Jersey. A tree care/forestry business or businesses needs to be hired to execute and complete the Commission's forestry project.

- L. Ferguson has prepared the Grant Agreement for the March 2nd Council Meeting. Once Council approves this non-matching grant and it is signed by the Borough Clerk, it can be submitted to the State Forest Service.
4. Home Depot Grant- There is no additional information at this time. L. Ferguson's attempts to contact a grant representative from Home Depot have been unsuccessful. She will continue to pursue this prospect and report her results at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tree City USA- The Commission agreed to reestablish connections to Tree City USA in 2010. Plans for an Arbor Day Celebration will involve Taylor Street Kindergarten classes. P. Huizenga will contact the elementary school for a student count to determine the amount of tree seedlings needed.
2. CORE Training- The registration deadline is March 26, 2010 for the April 10th workshop in Paramus, NJ. There were no plans to reserve a space for this date.
3. 2010 Temporary Budget- The Commission has \$5,103.75 in the Borough's temporary budget for expenditures until the permanent budget is approved later this year.
4. 98 Youmans Avenue- Homeowner (Pasquale Giovannone) submitted a letter to the Commission stating that the stump was not removed after Sunshine Tree & Landscape cut down his r.o.w. tree. Mr. Giovannone also noted that there was some damage to his rock wall that surrounded the tree during the process of this service. K. Halpin agreed to notify Sunshine Tree and Landscape and forward Mr. Giovannone's letter to them for review. A letter went out to the homeowner stating that the Commission is addressing his concern and should expect a response as promptly as possible.
5. Cool Cities Community Grant- The 56 trees that were planted from this grant need to be maintained in order to support the agreement stated in the Commission's Letter of Responsibility to the State. K. Halpin noted that the trees need to be watered and fertilized this Spring. The Commission will continue to discuss these plans at the 3/10/10 Shade Tree meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming