

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2010

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

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

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, May 12, 2010. A Motion was made by L. Starita and seconded by P. Huizenga that the minutes be approved for the meeting of April 14, 2010.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Arbor Day- Councilman John Valentine read a Proclamation to the Kindergarten classes at Taylor Street School to commemorate Arbor Day. Shade Tree Commissioner, Kathy Halpin prepared a brief presentation followed by a question and answer period. The children were very enthusiastic and eager to discuss the importance of trees. K. Halpin and Mr. Valentine concluded the ceremony with distributing Red Oak seedlings and planting instructions. The Express Times was available to have a picture and caption printed in their May 1st publication.
2. 98 Youmans Avenue- Homeowner (Pasquale Giovannone) experienced property damage when his r.o.w. tree was removed last Fall. Sunshine Tree & Landscape is in the process of repairing the damaged stone near the tree removal site. Since the tree service could not match the existing stone, they left a few samples for the owner to choose for a replacement. L. Starita will contact Jeff from Sunshine Tree & Landscape to get an update on their progress.
3. 2009 Business Stimulus Fund- At a special meeting held on April 21, 2010, the Shade Tree Commission reviewed the 4 quotes which were itemized for comparison. All commissioners agreed to hire Sunshine Tree and Landscape for the Washington Borough Park Tree Maintenance Project. They will provide quality service at the most cost effective price. Sunshine’s quote will allow the Commission to add fertilizing to the original proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 145 Sunrise Terrace- Homeowner (Terry Stiles) reported dead limbs on her r.o.w. Norway Maple. P. Huizenga evaluated the tree and determined that it was declining. A letter will be sent to the homeowner stating that the Maple will be added to the removal list when funds are available. P. Huizenga also noted that there were 2 other trees on Sunrise Terrace that should be removed, due to their deteriorating condition.
2. 266 West Warren Street- Homeowner (Allan Jones) had his Norway Maple removed last Fall, leaving the stump still intact. L. Starita will contact Sunshine Tree & Landscape to confirm that this job is completed as soon as possible. Mr. Jones is scheduled to have his driveway widened and the stump is hindering the process.
3. Maintaining the BID trees in the downtown area- The Shade Tree Commission is responsible for trimming and fertilizing the trees in the downtown area. K. Halpin noted that this issue needs to be addressed once the Commission acquires additional funds in this year's budget.
4. 114 West Washington Avenue- A Bradford Pear Tree split after strong winds on May 4th. The Borough Road Dept. removed the portion that obstructed West Washington Avenue. The DOT was notified and the tree is scheduled to be removed within the next few weeks. L. Starita will follow-up with the State if there is no action taken prior to the next Shade Tree Commission's Meeting on June 9th.
5. 17 Grand Avenue- Homeowner (Delores Wilkinson) attended the May 12th Shade Tree Commission's meeting to express her dissatisfaction with her tree removal last Fall. The remaining stump was not leveled and milled down as documented in the work order. Mrs. Wilkinson requested that the job be completed in order for her to reseed the area. L. Starita will contact Sunshine Tree & Landscape to follow-up on this location and all other removals that have not been completed.
6. 2010 Budget- The Shade Tree Commission was notified that the Mayor & Council have reduced the Commission's 2010 Budget to \$8,000. This is a \$7,100 reduction from the 2009 budget. The Commission agreed that this year will be concentrated on reactive issues more than proactive. Also, any available grants that can decrease the Commission's expenses will be considered.
7. 10 Marble Street- Homeowner (Victor Fiallos) request to remove a front yard tree. L. Starita visited the location and determined that it was not in the r.o.w. area and therefore not a Borough tree. A letter was sent to the homeowner expressing that he was responsible for the maintenance or removal.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by L. Starita and seconded by L. Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming