

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2010

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

Members in Attendance: L. Ferguson, K. Halpin, L. Starita
Absent: P.Huizenga, 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, September 8, 2010. A Motion was made by L. Starita and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meeting of June 9, 2010.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 98 Youmans Avenue- The replacement of the damaged stones at 98 Youmans Avenue (during the tree removal process) is still underway. L. Starita will follow-up with Sunshine Tree & Landscape to see if this issue has been resolved.
2. 2009 Business Stimulus Fund- The Commission has received written notification from Grants Administrator, Joseph Bennett that the forestry project can proceed. Jeff Berezny from Sunshine Tree & Landscape will be contacted to schedule a tentative date to trim and remove specific trees at the Borough Park. The Commission will inquire about an approximate timeline when a reimbursement check will be issued from the state.
3. Fertilizing Quote – Sunshine Tree and Landscape’s original quote for fertilizing 18 trees at the Borough Park exceeded the project’s budgeted allowance. Sunshine adjusted the proposal to \$1,800.00 and resubmitted it to the Commission for review. This lower proposal stipulates that Sunshine Tree & Landscape will deem which trees are in need of a deep root feed. As a result of this adjustment, the Commission will be able to stay within the \$7,000.00 budgeted for the grant award.
4. 114 West Washington Avenue- DOT removed a Bradford Pear that had split from strong winds on May 14th. The stump was not removed during this process. L. Starita will follow-up with the State to determine if they will complete the job by removing the stump. The Commission also needs clarification on the trees that the DOT will maintain on Washington Avenue.
5. Shade Tree Commission Ordinances- The Commission agreed to review the current ordinances and discuss any necessary revisions at the October 13th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Washington Borough website- L. Starita contacted Councilman Victor Cioni, who has offered his assistance with expanding the Commission's page on the town website. Lou commented that it could be similar to the Recreation Committee's format. L. Ferguson noted that Pittsburg, PA had a very informative Shade Tree Commission website and would also serve as a useful sample. L. Starita will print out the Pittsburg webpage before the Oct 13th meeting for further discussion.
2. 22 Alvin Sloan Avenue- Owners (Terry & Carolyn Thomas) had a dead tree in the r.o.w. area. Only the lower portion of the trunk was left when the road department arrived at the location. They removed the trunk and stump and refilled the hole. This property will be added to the replacement list when funds are available.
3. 265 West Warren Street- Homeowner (Janet Coleman) reported a declining Red Maple in the r.o.w. area. K. Halpin confirmed that the tree was dying and is a potential hazard. It will be added to the removal list when funds are available. A letter will be sent to the homeowner.
4. 120 Broad Street- Homeowners (Kerry & Christine Cook) reported fallen branches from a Gum Tree in the r.o.w. area. Mr. & Mrs Cook submitted a letter explaining their concerns and are willing to trim the tree at their expense. The contacted a professional tree service to trim the dead branches in order maintain the general health of the tree.
5. 35 Lambert Street- Homeowner (Ramon Correa) reported 2 dead trees on his front property. Shade Tree Commissioners visited the location and confirmed that the Ruby Slipper was dead and needs to be removed. The Honey Locust was determined to be healthy but in need of some additional maintenance. K. Halpin suggested that the owner attempt to fertilize and regularly water the tree. A letter will go out to Mr. Correa with some literature regarding the maintenance of young trees. Also, the Commission suggested that the Road Department be notified about removing the Ruby Slipper when their schedule is open. This property location will be added to the tree replacement list, when funds are available.
6. 89 Lenape Trail- Homeowner (Nancy Buwen) wanted to remove the Linden Tree on her front property. L. Starita confirmed that this was the homeowner's responsibility since there were no r.o.w. trees in the Shabbecong development. A letter went to the homeowner with a list of descriptive shade trees to provide additional information if she decides to replace the tree in the future.
7. NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference- L. Starita and L. Ferguson will be attending this year's conference in Cherry Hill, NJ on October 23rd. The Commission requires (8) C.E.U.s in order to maintain an Approved Status under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act.

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 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming