

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 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, October 13, 2010. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meeting of September 8, 2010.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 98 Youmans Avenue- The homeowners have not responded to Sunshine Tree & Landscape regarding the replacement pavers. Jeff Berezny left some sample pavers for the owner in an attempt to replace the damaged ones from last Fall.
2. 2009 Business Stimulus Fund- Sunshine Tree & Landscape's final proposal was signed by Shade Tree Commission Chairman, Lou Starita. The Washington Borough Park Project includes pruning 17 trees, removal of a Silver Maple near the Kiwanis pavilion and a deep root fertilization treatment. This service totaling \$7,000 will be covered by the grant award. The only exception will be a Horse Chestnut near the basketball court that will be cabled. If the tree expert determines that it should be removed, it will cost an additional \$700. This would have to be paid from the Shade Tree's budgeted line item.
3. Shade Tree Commission Ordinance- Current Ordinances were reviewed over the summer. Any changes will be further discussed at the November 10th Meeting.
4. Washington Borough website- L. Starita printed a sample of the Pittsburgh, PA Shade Tree Commission webpage. All Commissioners agreed that it was a good format to use for the Borough's website. A copy of the Pittsburgh webpage was submitted to Councilman, Victor Cioni to review. L. Starita will contact Mr. Cioni to discuss implementing this new format as soon as possible.
5. 114 W. Washington Avenue Follow-Up – The DOT removed a Bradford Pear that split on May 14th. They will return to grind the stump when they are scheduled to do other jobs in the surrounding area.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 13 South Pickel Avenue- Homeowner (Ivetta Capobianco) expressed concern about a r.o.w. tree that appears to be declining. There are overhead wires that cross through some of the branches. K. Halpin determined that the tree is healthy but needs to be trimmed. It will be added to the 2010 maintenance list when funds are available.
2. 99 Harding Drive- Homeowner (Ken Davies) reported his Honey Locust was dying and would like to remove it. K. Halpin visited the location and reported that the tree was not hazardous but in need of some additional maintenance. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the homeowner with instructions on maintaining a new tree. The Honey Locust was planted last year through the Cool Communities Grant.
3. 241 Belvidere Avenue- Homeowners (Richard & Patricia Thompson) requested a dead Pear Tree in the r.o.w area be removed. K. Halpin confirmed the condition of the Pear Tree and suggested that the Road Department be contacted. Since it was a relatively small tree, the DPW was able to remove it without any difficulty.
4. 110 W. Washington Avenue- Homeowner (Cindy Smith) expressed concern over 2 trees on her property. The front yard tree has branches extending over West Washington Avenue and the side tree (along the alley) has branches that cross through overhead wires. Neither tree is maintained by the Borough. Mrs. Smith was instructed to contact the Department of Transportation regarding the front tree. It was also suggested that she contact JCP&L regarding the side tree's issue. Both of these contacts are listed on the Shade Tree Commission's webpage.
5. Shade Tree Commission 2010 Budget- The Commission was appropriated \$8,000 for the 2010 Budget. \$339.67 has already been spent on advertising, professional dues and the Federal Shade Tree Commission Annual Conference. The Commission will review the 2010 maintenance list now that funds are available. Any trees that are considered to be a potential hazard will be a priority for this year's budget.
L. Ferguson will see if street trees are available at local nurseries. The Commission intends to plant some replacement trees with any remaining funds.
6. Tree City USA Recertification- This program now has an online application available. Certified Arborist, Robert Smith provided the Commission with a list of informative websites to explore. These include samples of budget worksheets and ordinances.

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: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming