

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 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, November 10, 2010. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved for the meeting of October 13, 2010.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Borough Park Project- Sunshine Tree & Landscape was at the Borough Park on November 11th to carry out the deep root feeding. Their certified tree expert selected the trees that were in need of the application. This process provides vital nutrients to maintain the health and vigor of the trees.
There was not a specific date for the tree removals/trimming at the Park. Sunshine will contact the Commission when the job is complete or if there are any concerns at the site.
2. Washington Borough website- Councilman Victor Cioni was given a copy of the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission webpage. Mr. Cioni offered to create some mock-up samples for the Commission to review. The Shade Tree should be ready to have the updates in place for the Webmaster by the end of the year.
3. NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference- L. Starita and L. Ferguson attended the October 23rd event. Both Commissioners earned (5) CEU's each. This is one of the four requirements for the Commission to maintain Approved Status under the New Jersey Forestry Assistance Act.
4. Tree City USA Recertification- Application deadline is December 31, 2010. This membership offers various grants to secure the safety and aesthetics in our Community. The application is now being offered online. Shade Tree Commission Secretary, P. Huizenga will complete this process.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2011 Budget Worksheet- The Commission requested an increase of \$5,500.00 in next year's budget. The 2010 Budget was almost cut in half. This drastically limited the Commission's ability to maintain/replace trees throughout the Borough. This cut also impacts the Shade Tree's membership with Tree City USA, which requires an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita.
2. 2010 Maintenance List- The Commission requested (3) quotes for the trimming and removal of (7) trees that were labeled as declining or hazardous by the Commission. After reviewing the quotes, Peterson and Son Tree Experts proved to be the most cost effective. This vendor has worked with the Borough in the past and has been very responsive to the Commission's requests.
3. Street Trees for Replacement Purposes- L. Ferguson contacted local nurseries for quotes on shade tree replacements. Two of the three businesses submitted quotes for (6) trees, including labor, staking and mulch. The Commission will meet again in December to review them after the 3rd quote is available. The quotes will determine the amount that can be spent, providing there are funds available at the end of 2010.

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: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming