

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2014**

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, G. Pohorely, S. Marr
Absent:

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 Monday, May 19, 2014. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the amended minutes be approved for the meeting of April 7, 2014.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 12 Oak Ridge Road Tree Removal - The homeowner removed a healthy Honey Locust Tree from the r.o.w. area. This action violates the Commission’s Ordinance #76-7. However, the Washington Borough’s Code Enforcement Officer will be not be able to impose a violation. There are no r.o.w. measurements for Oak Ridge Road on file. K. Halpin suggested that the site map from the development on Oak Ridge Rd. would be helpful in determining the r.o.w. areas. No action will be taken at this time.
2. Arbor Day Acknowledgement - S. Marr organized this year’s event, which was held at Memorial School on April 24th at 1:45 p.m. Mayor Scott McDonald attended the assembly to read the Arbor Day Proclamation to the students. The Memorial School’s Music Teacher prepared songs for the gathering. S. Marr talked about the history and importance of trees which was followed by a question and answer period. Pictures of the day’s event were taken by Suzanne’s daughter. Douglas Fir seedlings were also provided for the kindergarten classes at Taylor Street School. S. Marr commented that the workshop she attended at the Great Swamp Education Center provided valuable teaching resources for school-age children. She would be interested in attending future programs.
3. Penny Toss Farms – K. Halpin met with Penny Toss Farm’s proprietor, Tim Terry to discuss planting areas around town. Mr. Terry is willing to plant the trees that he is donating to the Borough. However, since some of the flowering species have begun to bud, the planting has been scheduled for the fall. Mr. Terry also suggested that a

declining Pin Oak located the corner of Broad St. and Youmans Avenue can be fed mulch tea. It is currently on the 2014 Maintenance List as a tree removal.

K. Halpin noted that the declining trees along RT #31 outside the ballpark fence, should be replaced with flowering Dogwoods. K. Halpin suggested that the Borough Park be evaluated for trim and removals. It was suggested that the Shade Tree Commission receive quotes for the inside of the Park and the area outside of the ballfield fence, along RT #31. Sunrise Terrace will also be evaluated for trim and removals.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 76 Flower Avenue - A tree was removed from the r.o.w. area without the Shade Tree Commission's permission. The former owners had a r.o.w. tree removed by a professional tree service in 2011. The new homeowners removed a 2nd Norway Maple from a r.o.w. area. The Shade Tree Commission was not notified of this removal. A letter will be sent to the property owners stating that they need to replace the tree with a comparable one. A copy of the Shade Tree Ordinance will accompany the letter.
2. 96 Taylor Street- Homeowner, Bill Wydner reported an overgrown tree on his property that is lifting his sidewalk. G. Pohorely visited the location and determined that the tree should be added to the maintenance list for trimming. It was also noted that the sidewalk is only slightly raised and doesn't appear to be an issue at this time.
3. 304 North Prospect Street – Homeowner, Alice Coleman requested replacement trees for the pines that were removed due to storm damage and disease in 2013. K. Halpin agreed that the open location should be replaced with shade trees. This address will be added to the planting list of donated trees from Penny Toss Farms.
4. Tree Trimming at the Washington Borough Park - It was brought to the Shade Tree Commission's attention that there are several trees throughout the park that need trimming. The Commission also agreed that Sunrise Terrace needs to be evaluated for trimming and removals. Current maintenance will be concentrated on these two areas and it was determined that quotes are needed for the evaluation of the Borough Park and Sunrise Terrace.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming

