

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2015**

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, G. Pohorely, S. Marr, M. Marotta
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 11, 2015. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting of April 13, 2015.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2015 Arbor Day Acknowledgement – A Dogwood Tree was planted at the Washington Public Library in conjunction with the annual Arbor Day Celebration and with the Woman’s Club dedication to Marie Snover. S. Marr organized the day’s event and both she and K. Halpin attended the ceremony. Mr. & Mrs. Snover’s family and friends were also at the dedication. Mayor, Scott McDonald read the Arbor Day Proclamation and the Woman’s Club served light refreshments to everyone who attended the event. K. Halpin noted that she will keep the new tree watered and eventually request one of the library staff to maintain it over the summer. S. Marr will send a thank you note to Penny Toss Farm’s proprietor, Tim Terry for donating and planting the Dogwood tree.

S. Marr noted that she would not recommend ordering the Redbud seedlings in the future for the Kindergarten classes in honor of Arbor Day. It was inconvenient to distribute the seedlings that were packed “bare rooted”. Each young tree had to be wrapped and kept moist until they were brought to Taylor Street School. They also had a strange odor that was not very conducive for future purchasing.

2. 23 Valley View Terrace – Homeowner (Donna Stackhouse) sent a second request to have 3 declining Spruce trees removed from the r.o.w. area. Sunshine Tree & Landscape evaluated the trees and recommended that they be removed. The tree service submitted a

quote for this removal and will be added to the next maintenance agreement that the Shade Tree approves. A letter will be sent to the property owner stating this outcome.

3. Grand Avenue and Presidential Drive Maintenance Quotes – The Shade Tree Commission reviewed the quotes that were submitted for the maintenance of Grand Avenue and Presidential Drive and removals at 57 W. Stewart St. and 23 Valley View Terrace. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by G. Pohorely to hire Sunshine Tree and Landscape to do the maintenance at these specific areas. This vendor was the most cost efficient for the Borough.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 25 School Street- Homeowner (Susan Cicala) inquired about the r.o.w. tree that was on last year's maintenance list. The Red Maple tree was evaluated by a professional tree service and it was recommended to be removed due to the large cavity in the tree. The service submitted a quote for the removal and it will be reviewed at the June 8th meeting.
2. 59 West Stewart Street- Homeowner (Linda Jayne) requested an evaluation of a Norway Maple in the r.o.w. area of her property. The fallen branches are a concern. A professional tree service's evaluation determined that there is a large area of decay in a section over the street and recommended that the tree be removed. A quote for the removal was submitted and will be reviewed at the June 8th meeting.
3. 7 Railroad Avenue- Tree branches are reported to be obstructing drivers' view from Park Avenue when making a left turn onto Railroad Avenue. The property owner (Seth Levine) of Washington Norse, LLC provided a phone number for their maintenance worker at the Railroad Avenue Apartments. He is willing to trim any vegetative growth that is impeding the visibility for drivers. At the present time, the area is not an issue. The corner of Park and Railroad Avenue will be viewed by Shade Tree Commissioner M. Marotta after the full foliage has filled in this Spring.
4. 110 Sunrise Terrace – Property Owner (Mac McNeil) requested a Maple tree be removed from his corner property. Mr. McNeil is willing to replace it at his own expense if necessary. S. Marr visited the location and noted that the Maple has some spotting but is a viable tree. The sidewalk appeared to be slightly uneven due to the root system. It has lateral, obtrusive roots that are affecting the lawn. Since the tree does not appear to be a hazard to public safety, the Shade Tree Commission does not recommend removing it. A letter will be sent to Mr. & Mrs. McNeil stating that they can remove it at their own expense provided that it is replaced with a suitable street tree in the same r.o.w. area of the property. A list of street trees will be provided to help with their selection. No further action will be taken at this time.
5. Washington Borough Park Trees – K. Halpin commented that the Penny Toss Farm's owner, Tim Terry will be planting 2 Honey Locust trees near the swing set at the Borough Park. These donated trees will be replacing the dead ones that were removed last year by Sunshine Tree and Landscape.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. Marr and seconded by M. Marotta that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming