

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 22, 2015**

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

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

**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, July 22, 2015. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by M. Marotta that the minutes be approved for the meeting of June 8, 2015.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Grand Avenue and Presidential Avenue Maintenance - Sunshine Tree and Landscape has completed the contracted maintenance at the following locations:  
Removals at 13 & 25 Grand Avenue, 57 W. Stewart St., 20 & 32 Presidential Dr. and a tree at the intersection of Presidential and Taft Terrace. Three trees were also removed at 23 Valley View Terrace. Street trees on Grand Ave and Presidential Drive were also elevated for pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
2. 200 West Warren Street – A Sycamore tree at 200 West Warren Street had storm damage which resulted in the tree being removed. After trimming a large limb that had snapped, it left the tree unstable.
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 of the apartment complex, has a building manager at the premises who trimmed the vegetation so the street sign and corner is clearly visible to vehicles.
4. 88 Flower Avenue Tree Trimming – Shade Tree Commissioner, S. Marr observed that a street tree was pruned back without any notification to the Shade Tree Commission. A letter was sent to the property owners with a copy of Ordinance #76-7, which informs the public that a monetary penalty is possible for this action. The notice was to educate the homeowner about possible consequences if this activity happens again.

5. Green Communities Grant – The State Forestry Services requested a completed payment voucher in order to finish the Green Community Grant process. The paperwork also needs to be signed by Washington Borough’s CFO, Natasha Turchan. Once this is processed, the State Forestry Service will send the \$3,000 grant monies that the Shade Tree Commission was awarded.
6. 262 West Warren Street – Property Owner (Tracey Yawger) requested that a tree in the r.o.w. area be evaluated due to fallen branches. It was determined that the Norway Maple has a large area of decay in a section that hangs over the street. The recommendation was for the tree to be removed. The Commission suggested some additional quotes for this location since the remaining Shade Tree 2015 budget is limited. This issue will be discussed at the next Shade Tree meeting on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Elm Research Institute Dedication - The Shade Tree Commission received an offer to sponsor the planting of (100) 10ft. Elm trees from the Liberty Tree Society. A donation of \$4,000.00 would consist of the (100) Elm trees, a bronze plaque, and a 15ft American Liberty Elm tree with a Lifetime Warranty. The Commission unanimously agreed that it is not realistic to plant 100 Elm trees in a town that is the size of Washington. No further action will be taken at this time.
2. 63 West Stewart Street - Property Owner (Joan Boutillette) requested a tree be evaluated due to fallen branches. K. Halpin visited the location and confirmed that it was not a town tree. A letter was sent to the property owner stating that they were responsible for any maintenance that was needed.
3. 70 North Lincoln Avenue- Property Owner ( Thomas Scarince) requested a tree be evaluated due to fallen branches. K. Halpin visited the location and confirmed that the tree was not in the right-of-way area. A letter was sent to the property owners stating that the property owner is responsible for any maintenance done to their tree.
4. Quotes for Borough Tree Maintenance – The quotes for tree maintenance at specific locations in the Borough were reviewed by the Commission. A motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by M. Marotta to hire Sunshine Tree and Landscape. A requisition will be generated to cover 4 tree and stump removals and elevate trees along the Washington Borough Business District from the Midtown Townhomes to Rt. 31 (both sides of Washington Avenue).

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

5. Downtown Tree Trimmed By Business Owner – A business owner that is renting a location along East Washington Avenue trimmed a tree in front of her store and 3 other trees is in the right-of-way area. This is a violation of Borough Ordinance #76-7. A letter was sent to the business owner with a copy of the ordinance. It also stated that the Shade Tree Commission was in the process of contracting a professional tree service to trim the trees in the Downtown Business area. No further action will be taken at this time.

**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 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming