

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2016**

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 9, 2016. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by G. Pohorely that the minutes be approved for the meeting of April 11, 2016.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tree City Bulletin #17 How To Landscape To Save Water - This material will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Arbor Day Acknowledgement - S. Marr organized the Arbor Day Acknowledgement at Taylor Street Elementary School this year on April 22. The program began and ended with student songs about trees. Mayor, Scott McDonald read “The Tinker’s Willow” by Edward W. Frenz and the Arbor Day Proclamation. After a brief question and answer period, S. Marr relayed planting instructions for the Douglas Fir seedlings that were provided for all the kindergarteners. S. Marr recommended that the Commission continue to celebrate Arbor Day at the Taylor Street School. The students are very receptive to this annual event.
2. Downtown Business District Tree Fertilizer - K. Halpin stated that fertilizing with the Mulch Tea could be too expensive. This method was originally recommended by Penny Toss proprietor, Tim Terry. K. Halpin commented that Preen and peat moss can be used as a weed suppressant for the downtown trees. However, the grates around the downtown trees need to be lifted in order to weed and apply this recommended treatment. The Commission would need the DPW for assistance, depending on their schedule. Also, K. Halpin will contact the Borough Manager to discuss the possibility of a local Boy Scout troop volunteering to help weed under the downtown trees.

Commissioners, G. Pohorely and S. Marr will be preparing for the June 4th Green Fest in the downtown business district. They recommended that the trees be maintained before this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 270 Wyoming Avenue - Homeowners (Craig & Lee Geller) requested an evaluation of a Norway Maple in the r.o.w. area. K. Halpin visited the location and determined that it was a healthy tree which needs trimming. The property owners will be notified that the tree will be added to the 2016 Maintenance List.
2. 50 Prosper Way - Homeowner (Deccia Henry) requested an evaluation of a Maple tree in the r.o.w. area. S. Marr visited the location and observed some decay in the center of the tree. It was recommended that the tree be removed. A letter will be sent to the homeowners indicating that the tree will be removed at the Borough's expense.
3. 11 E. Warren Street - Homeowner (Noori Tersigni) requested an evaluation of a tree that has branches hanging over her backyard bungalow. The property is located on the corner of East Warren and Cleveland Street. The backyard borders on the Taylor Street School field. Mrs. Tersigni also was concerned about the surface roots of a neighbor's tree interfering with her water/sewer lines. K. Halpin visited the location and observed that the trees inside the Taylor Street School field were not a hazard to the homeowner's bungalow. They were planted for Arbor Day and paid with funds from the Cool Communities Grant in 2007. Taylor Street School is also responsible for the maintenance of these trees. There is also a large Maple tree that is growing through the Taylor Street field fence. The Maple tree is closer to the bungalow but not a hazard. It is also the school's responsibility. The homeowner was outside at the property location and K. Halpin informed her about these concerns. Lastly, the homeowner was not having any water or sewer issues but was trying to be proactive regarding surface roots that run along her yard. The Commission could not provide advice about the roots if there are no existing issues. However, it was suggested that the water company mark out the lines to indicate where it would be safe to dig for any future issues. No further action will be taken at this time.
4. 8 Oak Ridge Road - S. Marr noted that a tree in the right-of-way was removed without any notification to the Shade Tree Commission. This is a violation of Shade Tree Ordinance #76-7. A homeowner must notify the Shade Tree Commission if a town tree is intended to be removed/replaced. The penalty for violating this ordinance is a \$500 fine or the option of replacing the tree with a comparable one. A letter will be sent to the homeowners with a copy of Ordinance #76-7.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming