

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

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

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

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, September 11, 2017. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting of June 12, 2017.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tree City USA: Bulletin #4 “The Right Tree for the Right Place” - This information will be filed for future reference.
2. Arbor Day July/August 2017 Newsletter - This information will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 17 Lambert Street- The owners have not responded to the Shade Tree Commission’s written requests to clarify the treatment that destroyed two trees in the right-of-way area. There is concern that the chemicals may still be contaminating the soil on the owner’s property. Also, the issue of the unsuitable replacement street trees is still unresolved. At this point, the violation will be enforced by the Washington Borough Code Enforcement Officer, Matthew Lopez. The Shade Tree Ordinance and copies of the meeting Minutes pertaining to this property were provided to Mr. Lopez for his review.
2. CSIP Grant - The number of planting locations has been modified to accommodate the amount of money awarded by the grant. The quotes from the original 54 trees exceeded the grant award. The Commission submitted quote requests for 21 trees at specified locations. As a result, only Sunshine Tree & Landscape responded to the new request. G. Pohorely has been in contact with New Jersey State Forester, Brian McDonald regarding the progress of the CSIP Grant. The schedule for planting all 21 trees is the Fall of 2017 and will allow a two-year monitoring period. Any additional information for the grant requirement will be relayed to G. Pohorely on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission.
3. 94 Grand Avenue - Property owner (Laurie Macko) requested a right-of-way tree be removed. K. Halpin confirmed that the tree at 98 Grand was pruned. Sunshine Tree &

Landscape noted that the tree is in decline and needs to be monitored in the future. The r.o.w. tree is adjacent to 94 Grand Ave. No further action will be taken at this time.

4. 116 East Washington Avenue – The United Methodist Church has an uneven sidewalk near a street tree. The topic was discussed with the Borough Manager and K. Halpin. It was decided that the DWP would assist in creating an apron connecting the sidewalk pieces. This would form a ramp to eliminate the unlevel surface that is currently causing the issue.
5. 200 West Warren Stump Removals – Property Owners (John & Betty Hoffman) had two trees removed in 2016. The stumps were left due to budgetary restraints. However, Mr. & Mrs. Hoffman would like to know when the stump removals will be scheduled. This location will be on the next maintenance job, since there are replacement trees planned at this address from the CSIP grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 128 Belvidere Avenue - Property owner (Roger Skoog) submitted a written request for a street tree removal. The Little Leaf Linden tree was originally planted too close to a stone wall on the property. The wall is showing signs of stress cracks at various locations. Mr. Skoog is also having a stone mason examine the wall to determine the cost to repair or replace it. K. Halpin visited the location and confirmed that the tree was planted too close to the stone wall. It was determined that the tree should be removed and will be placed on the next maintenance job. A letter will be sent to Mr. Skoog stating this decision.
2. 130 Broad Street - Property Owner (Douglas Eaton) attended the meeting and expressed his concern about a tree in the right-of-way area. It has a significant crack in the trunk and thinks the stability may be questionable. K. Halpin had visited the location and recommended that the Little Leaf Linden be placed on the next maintenance list as a removal.
3. 20 West Stewart Street – Property Owner (Stelio Kontos) requests that two town trees be trimmed. K. Halpin noted that West Stewart Street should be contracted for future overall maintenance. This address should be added to the Shade Tree maintenance list. The homeowner will be informed of this information.
4. 263 West Warren Street – Property Owners (Diana & Nelson Carhart) reported that the neighbors' town tree is growing into their pine tree and causing it to deteriorate. Mr. & Mrs. Carhart attended the meeting and showed pictures of their declining pine tree. They requested the town tree be trimmed away from their property to maintain the health of their pine tree. The Commission agreed that this was a valid concern and the Norway Maple at 263 West Warren Street will be added to the maintenance list.

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