

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2018

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. McDonald, S. Marr
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 Monday, March 12, 2018. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the amended minutes be approved for the meeting of February 12, 2018.

Ayes: 3, Abstain: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Arbor Day March/April 2018 Newsletter – This will be filed for future reference.
2. Tree City USA Bulletin #6 How to Hire an Arborist – This information will be filed for future reference.
3. The Shade Tree Bulletin: Volume 91 January/February 2018 – This pamphlet will be filed for future reference

OLD BUSINESS:

1. CSIP Grant – G. Pohorely will report any updates at the April meeting, since he was unable to attend the March meeting.
2. Land Conservation Rally – G. Pohorely attended the rally in Far Hills, NJ. on March 2nd. Gary attained (4) CEU’s for participating in this event. This year’s theme was “Connect...Collaborate...Conserve!”.
3. Tree City USA Renewal – The renewal application is pending upon the approval from the New Jersey Forest Service. The results should be available by the April Shade Tree meeting.
4. Community Forestry Management Plan – K. Halpin contacted Paul Cowie. The Green Community Grant was instrumental in contributing some payment of the last updated Plan. This topic will be discussed further at the April Shade Tree meeting.

5. Arbor Day Update – G. Pohorely will be coordinating this event at Taylor Street School. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald to purchase the seedlings that will be distributed to the kindergarten students.

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 190 Broad Street – Homeowner (Janet Quigley) requested a tree in the right-of-way to be evaluated. The Commission agreed to add this location to a maintenance quote that is being formed. Since professional tree services are requested to provide quotes for selected addresses, it is beneficial to have an expert evaluation done at the same time.
2. Washington Methodist Church – A letter was sent from Candace Lewis, President, Board of Trustees from the United Methodist Church. There is concern regarding the raised sidewalk in front of the Church along East Washington Avenue. The tree roots have caused this hazardous condition for pedestrians. They request that the tree be removed so they can repair the sidewalk. Ms. Lewis noted that they are not opposed to having the tree replaced, provided that there are no similar issues in the future. The Washington Borough Code Enforcement Officer & Zoning Official, Matt Lopez attended the March 12th meeting. Mr. Lopez recommended that the Commission add clarification about the homeowner’s responsibility to repair the sidewalk when tree roots are involved. The Commission agreed that the current Shade Tree Ordinance needs an explanation for the sidewalk repairs. In the meantime, K. Halpin recommended the DPW lift the sidewalk at the Methodist Church and ask tree expert, Jeremy Summitt to decide if the roots can be cut without compromising the tree’s healthy condition. This would involve coordinating the time schedules for the DPW and Mr. Summitt. M. Lopez also suggested that the Shade Tree Commission create a standardized form for any tree related requests. The form should be accessible online for the public to report concerns with trees in the right-of-way areas. This idea was well received by all the Shade Tree Commissioners and will be discussed at the April 9th meeting.
3. 20 West Stewart St. – Property Owner (Stelio Kontos) has a Maple tree uplifting the sidewalk and requests that the Shade Tree Commission share the cost of the sidewalk repairs. The Commission will clarify the Ordinance which should explain that the property owner is responsible for any sidewalk repair. This would include tree roots causing unlevel conditions. In the meantime, the property owner will be mailed literature on the Washington Borough Ordinance #75-19 and Tree City Bulletin #3 “Resolving Tree-Sidewalk Conflicts”.
4. 131 Sunrise Terrace- Property Owner (Jennie Winkler) requests a Norway Maple tree be removed from the right-of-way area due to continuous falling branches. S. Marr visited the location and suggested that this tree should be added to the maintenance list for evaluation and will be included on the quote request that the Commission is currently forming.
5. Right Tree/Right Place Seminar – Free seminar offered on April 6th at the Hank Gallo Community Center. DPW Supervisor, Jonathan James attended the March 12th Shade Tree meeting and commented that he would be interested in attending this event. Jonathan noted that Darryl Wright would also attend the seminar since they have

received CORE training at the NJ Shade Tree Annual Conference last Fall. The Shade Tree Commissioners will check their schedules before confirming their registration. J. James also updated the Commission about town trees that were damaged by the storm. He was instrumental in conveying the conditions of specific locations that the DPW had to maintain. It is beneficial for the DPW to communicate their observations to the Commission on a regular basis and Jonathan's input was appreciated.

6. 198 Broad Street- A Magnolia tree was damaged during the March 14th storm. The Commission agreed to have this tree removal added to the maintenance quote request that it being formed. The quotes are asked to be returned before the April Shade Tree meeting in order to select a vendor. The property owner will be notified of this development.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. McDonald 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