

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2019**

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, G. Pohorely, S. Marr, S. McDonald
Absent: 0

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 11, 2019. A Motion was made by S. McDonald and seconded by G. Pohorely that the minutes be approved for the meeting of February 11, 2019.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Arbor Day: March/April 2019 - This pamphlet will be filed for future reference.
2. Resolution 2019-54: Resolution of the Borough of Washington Opposing S2505/A2558 “Vegetation Management Act”- This document will be filed with the March 11th Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. CSIP Grant - The State Forester, Brian McDonald needs clarification regarding the number of trees listed for the grant before sending the reimbursement check. G. Pohorely will contact Mr. McDonald with the final count and forward and additional information that is required. Any further updates will be discussed at the April Shade Tree meeting.
2. Green Communities Grant – The grant funds are available for the Shade Tree Commission. K. Halpin will get the rate for “in kind” hours that were part of the process of the Community Forestry Management Plan update. This grant will cover a portion of the cost for the CFMP.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Arbor Day- S. Marr scheduled the event at Taylor Street School for April 30th. Mayor, Dave Higgins will be available to read the Arbor Day Proclamation. An update of the occasion will be discussed at the May 13th meeting.
2. 27 Belvidere Ave. – Owner (Robert Lawkiel) requested a town tree be removed from the front of his property. K. Halpin visited the location and determined that the tree is declining and should be removed. The owner is concerned about the unlevel sidewalk

caused by the tree roots. The raised pavement is also diverting water towards the lower level of his rented commercial space. K. Halpin assured Mr. Lawkiel that he would be notified when the tree was being removed so he could make arrangements to lift and realign the sidewalk in order to resolve the current issues. This location was placed on the Shade Tree's maintenance list.

3. 207 Belvidere Avenue – Owner (David Gallagher) requested a tree be removed from the front of his property due to its' proximity to overhead wires. A large branch had also snapped off from strong winds. K. Halpin visited the location and determined that it was not a town tree. The tree is behind the fence of Mr. Gallagher's corner property. A letter will be sent to the owner stating that he is responsible for the maintenance of the tree.
4. 90 Carlton Ave – K. Halpin noted that a Lady Slipper Maple tree was damaged from strong winds. This location will be placed on the maintenance list for evaluation.
5. Borough Park – Park Director, Gary Masenior reported a tree on the railroad embankment that poses a potential hazard. The dead tree is leaning into the parking lot area near the Grand Stand. G. Pohorely will contact the Borough Manager, Matt Hall to determine if Norfolk Southern Railroad will remove this tree. This issue will be reviewed again at a future meeting.
6. Little League Field – G. Pohorely suggested that the Little League baseball field off Lambert Street could be a potential area for new trees. Arborist Consultant, Paul Cowie had recommended that the Commission develop a future planting project for the updated CFMP. The cost for possible planting locations will depend on the support of available grants and the Shade Tree's limited annual budget. This topic will be revisited at a future Shade Tree meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming