

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2019**

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, G. Pohorely, S. McDonald
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, June 10, 2019. A Motion was made by S. McDonald and seconded by S. Marr that minutes be approved for the meeting of May 13, 2019.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. CSIP Grant Update – K. Halpin recommended a Serviceberry tree for 134 Sunrise Terrace. However, the owner (Lauren Vasko) sent a written request to remove her address as a tree planting site. The Commission unanimously chose 7 Oakwood Lane as the replacement location. The additional three trees will be planted at 36 North Pickel Ave., 2 Presidential Ave. and 26 Presidential Ave. It was decided at the May 13th Shade Tree meeting that property owner (Vickie Rhoads) at 36 North Pickel Ave. should pay the \$500 fee for the unauthorized removal of two town trees. However, K. Halpin suggested to waive the fee, since the removal of the declining trees would have cost the Borough more that \$1,000. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. Marr to waive the fee for Ms. Rhoads.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

2. CFMP Draft – The Commissioners reviewed the second draft prepared by Paul Cowie. There were only a few minor grammatical and date changes noted.
3. 365 North Prospect St. – S. McDonald measured the distance from the North Prospect Street center line to the base of the tree. It was determined that the tree is not within the right-of-way area. A letter will be sent to the property owners stating that they are responsible for the tree’s maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 133 Belvidere Ave. – Homeowner (Carole Diction) reported two trees in the right-of-way area that are leaning over her fence. A road crew has been working on the water line close to West Stewart St. The work seems to be causing two trees to tilt towards Ms. Diction’s property. K. Halpin will ask Sunshine Tree & Landscape to evaluate the trees.
2. Nelson Tree Service for JCP&L – This trimming is a standard practice every 4 years. Nelson Tree Service will only focus on branches that interfere with the electric wires.
3. 35 Alvin Sloan Ave. – Property owner (John Cullen) requested a tree be evaluated. S. McDonald visited the location and recommended that the tree be evaluated by a professional tree service. This location will be placed on the maintenance list.
4. 173 Belvidere Ave. – Homeowner (Albert Zabriskie) is concerned about the uplifted sidewalk in front of his property due to tree roots. K. Halpin determined that the sidewalk was minimally uneven and no remedial work is necessary.
5. 121 Harding Drive – Property owner (Susan Yerega) requested a tree be evaluated. S. Marr recommended that the tree needs elevating over the driveway and trimmed near wires extending towards the house. This location will be placed on the maintenance list.
6. Washington Meadows Development – S. McDonald will evaluate whether the street trees in this neighborhood require elevating.
7. Maintenance Job – The Shade Tree Commission reviewed the quotes that were submitted for tree maintenance at various locations in town. A Motion was made by S. McDonald and seconded by S. Marr to hire Sunshine Tree & Landscape to provide their professional and cost-effective service.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

K. Halpin commented that Phillipsburg hires a tree service company to prune and trim trees throughout their town. It was suggested that Washington Borough should explore that approach. The Commissioners discussed the possibilities and decided that the idea may be difficult to manage.

8. Tree Removals at Railroad Ave. -Two members of the Recreation Commission and two Railroad Ave. residents attended the June 10th meeting. The Recreation Commission recently cleared some trees on Borough property and cleaned up some debris. There are plans to create a walking path and a future soccer field off of Railroad Avenue. The attending residents were upset about the tree removals and not being notified about the day it was arranged. After much discussion, the Shade Tree Commission advised both parties that this matter was not a Shade Tree issue but should be discussed with the Recreation Commission. Recreation Commissioner, Daniel Almind stated that both Commissions should work more cooperatively in the future.

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 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Pohorely