

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 9, 2020**

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

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, S. McDonald, G. Pohorely  
Absent: D. Butler,  
Guest: Borough Engineer, Kevin Smith

**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 9, 2020. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the amended minutes be approved for the meeting of February 10, 2020.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1  
Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Arbor Day: March/April 2020 Newsletter - This will be filed for future reference.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 133 W. Washington Ave.- The Commission sent a letter to homeowner (Melanie Jensen) that the tree in front of her home was added to the maintenance list. However, a professional tree service removed the tree and stump without any notification on 2/24/20. The tree was in decline and losing branches and the DOT had trimmed it in June 2018. It is uncertain if the homeowner contacted them to remove it. The Commission will inquire at the local DOT office, for any information.
2. Arbor Day Tree Purchase – The Commission will acknowledge Arbor Day by planting a tree at the Borough Park. Suitable species of trees were discussed for the location. Quotes will be sent for the purchase and planting of the five possible choices: Tuliptree, Hackberry, Elm, Scholartree, and European Beech. The Arbor Day tree should be ordered by the April Shade Tree Commission meeting.
3. 2019 Accreditation Status – The Shade Tree Commission has submitted the annual Tree City Reapplication and the 2019 Accomplishment Report. The New Jersey Forestry Service is reviewing these materials and the Commission will be notified of their approvals in April.

4. 17 Lambert St. Tree Replacements – The property owner (Aileen Hodgskin) inquired about having two trees replaced in the right-of-way. They were previously replaced after their landscaping company misapplied herbicide that killed the original trees. Those replacements are also dead. Due to the history of the landscaper’s chemical treatment, the trees cannot be replaced until the soil is proven to be safe. The Commission did not recommend but suggested two contacts for soil testing. A copy of the results should be submitted to the Shade Tree Commission. There is no further action to be taken at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. 2020 Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally – G. Pohorely registered for this event but unfortunately the event was cancelled due to the coronavirus.
2. Carlton Ave. Sidewalk Replacements – Washington Borough Engineer, Kevin Smith attended the Shade Tree meeting to discuss the tree removals on Carlton Avenue. The Borough was awarded a State Grant to replace the sidewalks along that street. There will be 9 trees removed between North Lincoln and Grand Ave. due to the reconstruction process. Mr. Smith noted that the planting strips are too narrow to replace the trees. The project is scheduled to begin mid-April and the work will take approximately 6 weeks to complete. The Commission reluctantly agreed to the removals but G. Pohorely suggested that the contractor plant 9 additional trees along Grand Avenue to offset the 9 trees that are being removed on Carlton Ave. The cost for the purchase and planting would come out of the same State Grant. K. Smith stated that it seemed like a reasonable notion and will discuss it with the Borough Manager. He will update the Commission regarding this request.

The Grand Ave. Streetscape Project was also discussed with the Borough Engineer. The contractor for that project will return in April. The trees that were damaged during the construction will be replaced as well as the new trees that were not 2 ½” caliber. K. Smith also clarified that the Borough Council contracted only 9 trees to be planted along Grand Ave. in the Streetscape Project. These topics will be discussed at a later Shade Tree meeting.

3. 2020 Bank of America Community Resilience Grant – Unfortunately Washington Borough does not meet the requirements for the Shade Tree Commission to apply for this state grant.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming