

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 13, 2020

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. via Zoom due to COVID-19

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, G. Pohorely, D. Butler

Jerry Brown, Washington Borough resident, was also in attendance.

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 Thursday, July 16, 2020. A Motion was made by D. Butler and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting date of July 16, 2020.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0

Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

K. Halpin noted that we received a Tree City Bulletin. Anyone interested in reviewing it can contact S. Fleming.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ash Tree Treatment Quotes

Three quotes were received from certified tree companies. Bartlett's quote was \$7.25 per inch for ash trees 1 inch to 35 inches DBH and 36 inches or greater \$9.50 per inch. Spanner offered \$10.50 per inch DBH and Sunshine's quote was \$18.00 per inch DBH. All companies would treat the trees with emamestin benzoate which would provide each tree with two year protection. G. Pohorely moved to accept the Bartlett quote to treat the Borough ash trees. D. Butler moved to amend the motion to include asking Bartlett if the price would remain the same after two years (2022). S. Marr seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

2. Grand Avenue Streetscape Project Update

K. Halpin reached out to several local tree experts, including Patrick Logan, to determine whether the Grand Avenue trees were correctly planted and all agreed they were not. She and G. Pohorely checked a number of the trees, digging below the soil surface to find the tree flares were all at least several

inches below the surface rather than at the surface. Prior to the Grand Avenue construction, she provided documentation to the construction company on how to properly plant a tree, however, she believes their lack of experience and negligence resulted in poor tree installation. K. Halpin reported her findings to Borough Manager M. Hall who will consult with Borough Engineer K. Smith.

3. Downtown Business Tree Maintenance – K. Halpin spoke with M. Hall about using the DPW staff to elevate the downtown trees. She explained that the staff have the necessary expertise to complete this task. After the DPW completes the work the STC will check all trees.

4. CSIP Grant Inspection Update – G. Pohorely reported that he spoke with Michael Martini, NJDEP Division of Forestry. Mr. Martini indicated that the recent inspection was the second one. Next summer will be the third and final inspection.

5. 120 Broad Street Cable Sweetgum Tree –K. Halpin stated that Sunshine Tree & Landscape recommended trimming this tree and installing two cables for support and public safety. This work would cost \$400. D. Butler moved to approve Sunshine Tree & Landscape to conduct this work for \$400. G. Pohorely seconded the motion

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0

Motion Carried

6. 40 Alvin Sloan Tree Replacement- K. Halpin stated this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The current STC budget consists of \$12,443.99. According to S. Marr's calculations, the ash tree work will cost \$2954.25 and the STC just approved Sunshine for \$400. K. Halpin suggested with our remaining funds the priorities would be: elevate trees in other parts of the Borough such as Grand Avenue and Belvidere Avenue and remove stumps from 35 Alvin Sloan, 38 North Pickel, 130 Sunrise Terrace, 342 North Prospect, and 1 Oakwood Terrace.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. Marr and seconded by D. Butler that the meeting be adjourned at 8:03.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Motion carried.